SHERLOCK BONES

STORY BY
YUMA ANDO
ART BY
YUKI SATO

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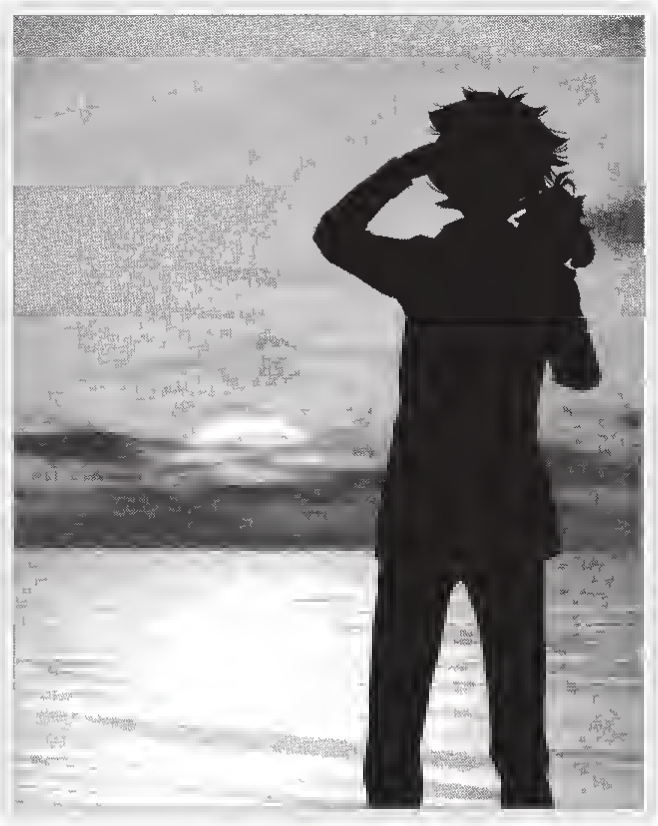


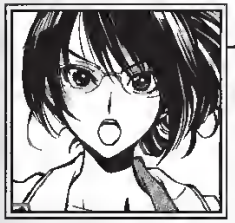
Sherdog & Takeru

Story: Yuma Ando Art: Yuki Sato

Kento Munakata

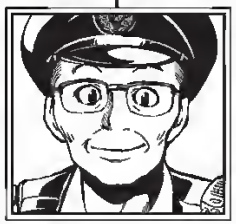
A career detective at the London Police Department, the same age as Takeru. An elite freshly back from New York, he boasts of his experience whenever he gets the chance.

Members of the Wajima Family



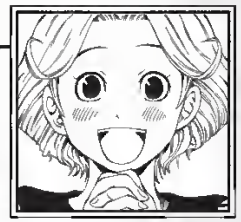
Airin Wajima

Takeru's sister, an inspector in the Violent Crimes Division, and a rather sexy woman. Sherdog calls her Irene.



Kōsuke Wajima

Takeru's father. A sergeant in the police force.



Satoko Wajima

Takeru's mother. She really hates it when Sherdog sits in her favorite rocking chair.

STORY

THE STORY SO FAR

The puppy Sherdog—reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes—and his owner Takeru Wajima team up to solve tough cases!! Soon after Takeru is transferred to the London PD's detective division, a woman is found hanging by her neck from the water tower of her apartment building. The death is believed to be a suicide spurred on by a failed cosmetic surgery operation, but as Takeru delves into the case, he is convinced that it is murder. He suspects the doctor at the woman's former beauty clinic and begins to investigate!

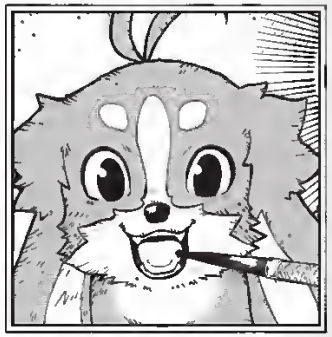
CHARACTERS

Takeru Wajima

A nineteen-year-old rookie police officer. He is Sherdog's owner and the one person who can understand him. He made a name for himself early in his career, and a special exception was made to transfer him to the detective department.

Sherdog

The mixed-breed puppy that Takeru adopted. His true identity is that of the world-famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. When he has the Wajima family's heirloom pipe in his mouth, he can speak to Takeru. He solves crimes with Takeru, learning about the modern world in the process.

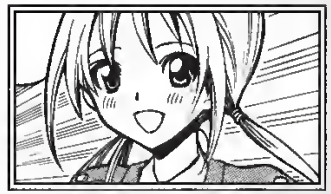


Miki Arisaka

Takeru's friend since childhood and currently a freshman at college. An aspiring journalist, she works part-time at a newspaper company.

Nanami Akane

Takeru and Miki's classmate from high school. Her reputation was once saved by Takeru. She became a police officer, possibly to be with Takeru.



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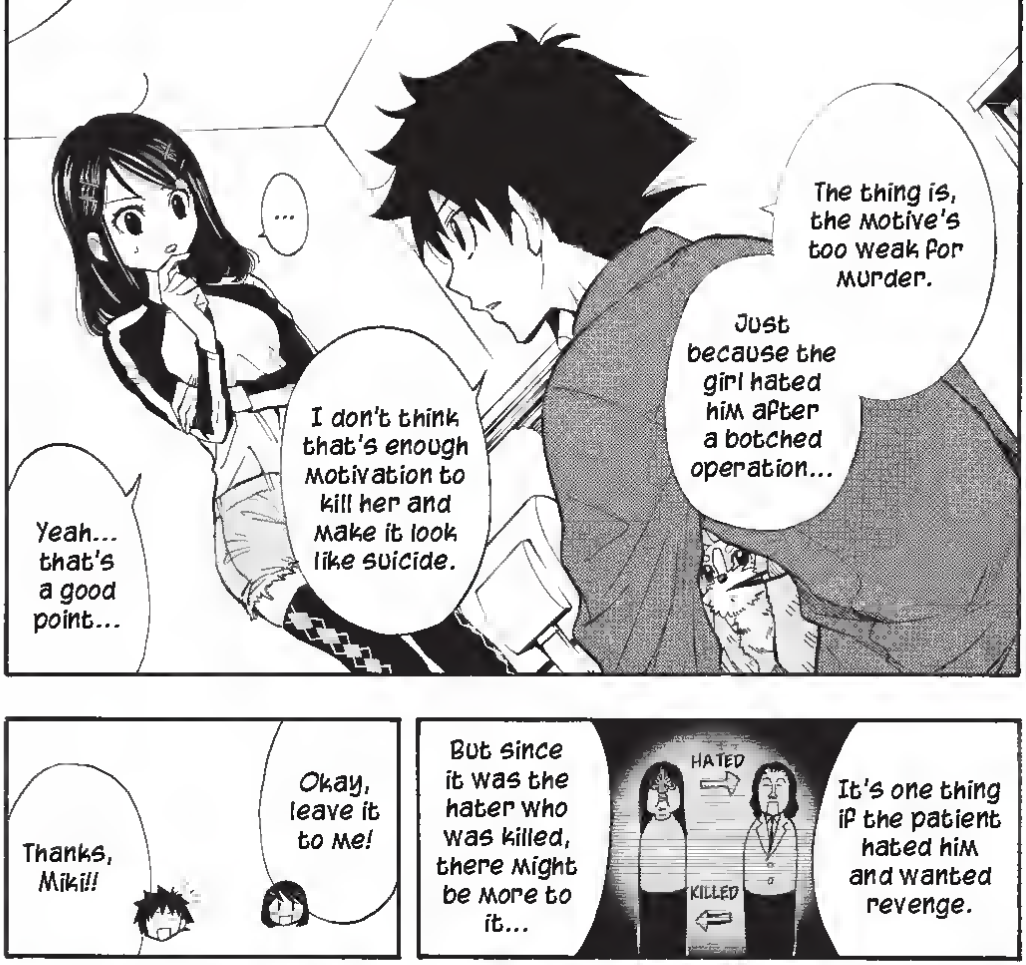
Wow... there's a lot more to that suicide than I thought.
Yeah.
If Sherdog and I are right...
Even our paper...
Just has this tiny little story on it.
...But...
RUSTLE...
this is definitely a case of murder.

Case 9: ⚜ The Stolen Face, Part 4

Miki...
To destroy her face like that, and then kill her...
...if this is a murder...
I can never forgive him for doing this to a fellow woman!!
Maybe you could ask the patients of other beauty clinics in the neighbor-hood.
Clinic
Beauty
See if you can talk to people who have been to Hyper Beauty...
I have business cards as a reporter-in-training for Kodan News. Maybe I could do an interview...
Takeru! Is there anything I can do to help?
Thanks! That'd be a big help.
!


The thing is, the motive's too weak for murder.
Just because the girl hated him after a botched operation...
...
I don't think that's enough motivation to kill her and make it look like suicide.
Yeah... that's a good point...

Okay, leave it to me!
Thanks, Miki!!

But since it was the hater who was killed, there might be more to it...
HATED
KILLED
It's one thing if the patient hated him and wanted revenge.

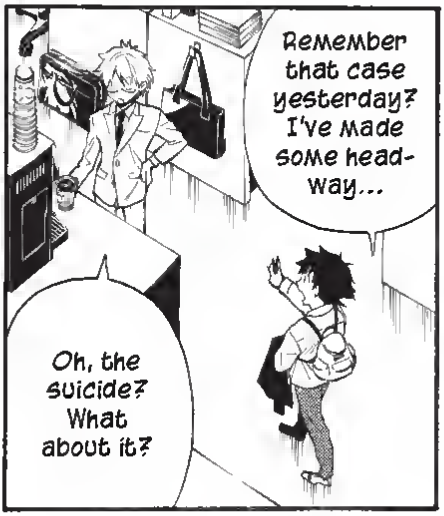
You're welcome!
...

There are a lot of answers I can't get as a detective—people get too guarded.
You're a real life-saver.

Good morning!
Yaaawn.

It is not, and you know it!
Good Morning, Takeru-kun! Another peaceful morning in London, wouldn't you say?

?!
It wasn't suicide!


Remember that case yesterday? I've made some head-way...
Oh, the suicide? What about it?

I know you're eager to prove yourself as the new detective, but come on.
...There you go, making snap judgments again.
It was homicide!
I'm sure of it!!
I went to Hoshiko Ikeda's beauty clinic.
And I spoke to the surgeon, Yoshito Akane!
Oh, I see.
It's not a snap judgment! I did some questioning.
Oh, really? And whom did you question?
Mm-hm.
And?
happened when Akane botched her surgery.
Apparently that facial disaster

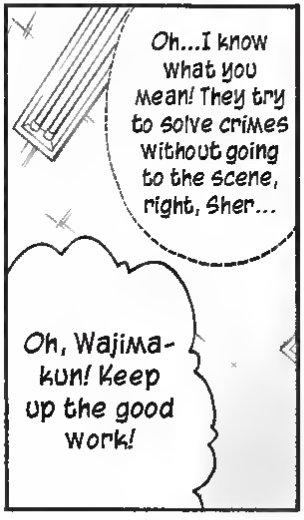
...
...I had no idea.
He made up some excuse about a bad reaction to the drug that only happens to one in ten thousand or something...
And that's how her case ended up the way it did
I found the perfect solution
I was just about to call her and let her know there was hope of recovery.
SWAY
Akane himself admitted to half of it in his testimony.
...
Yes. I found a patient registration card and other stuff in all the evidence you collected.
PIPI!
PIPI!
...
IF YOU ALREADY KNEW, WHY DID YOU MAKE ME EXPLAIN?
What? Really?!
I'M not an idiot—I questioned Dr. Akane, too.
Not!
GULP
GULP
the conclusion it led me to...
...And
NGS NICE

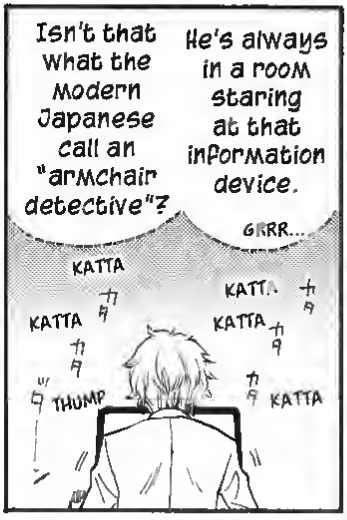
...is exactly what I first suspected.
SUICIDE NOTE
This was a suicide.
!!
Reason number one: she left a handwritten note.
Reason number two: there are no suspects with a motive to kill her.
...And there were no signs of a break-in, remember?
So there you have it.
I...I'm telling you, Dr. Akane...

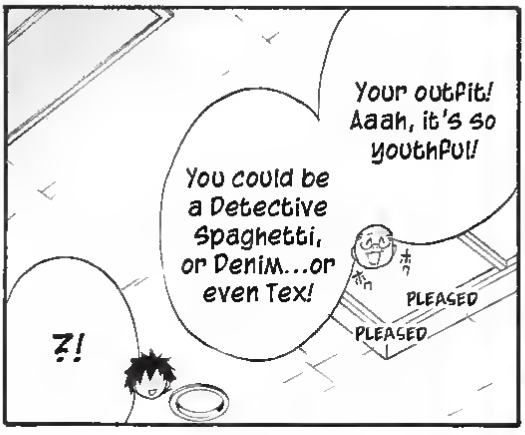
I doubt a failed surgery is sufficient motive for murder.
Anyone working in cosmetic surgery
knows that claims and lawsuits are part of the territory.
...

PSST
! Sherdog...
ARF!
HMM, are all young elites like that these days?

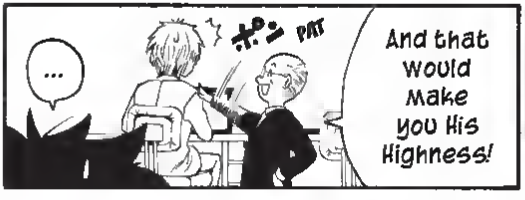
But there aren't any holes in his logic...
Grr...! I know he's wrong.

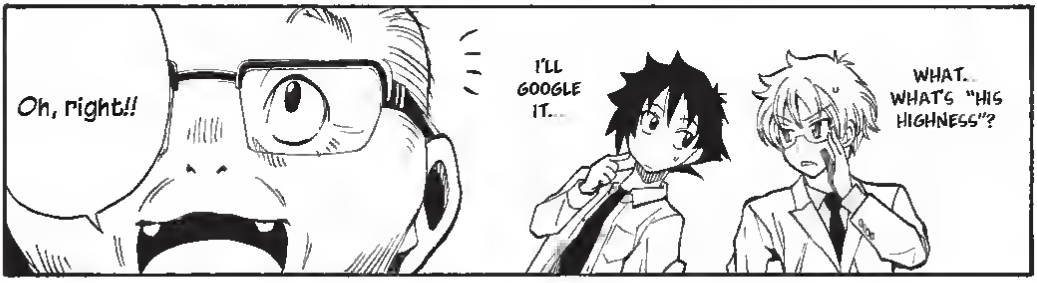

Oh...I know what you mean! They try to solve crimes without going to the scene, right, Sher...
Oh, Wajima-kun! Keep up the good work!


Isn't that what the Modern Japanese call an "armchair detective"?
He's always in a room staring at that information device.
GRRR...
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
KATTA
THUMP
KATTA

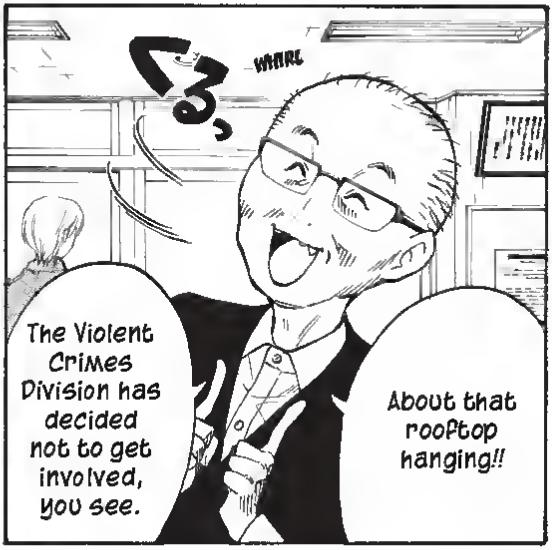

Your outfit! Aaah, it's so youthful!
You could be a Detective Spaghetti, or Denim...or even Tex!
PLEASED
PLEASED
?!

Hi there!
B-DMP
Chief Yoshida! Good Morning.
Wha... What good work are you re-ferring to?
HOP


...
PAT
And that would make you His Highness!


Oh, right!!
I'LL GOOGLE IT...
WHAT... WHAT'S "HIS HIGHNESS"?

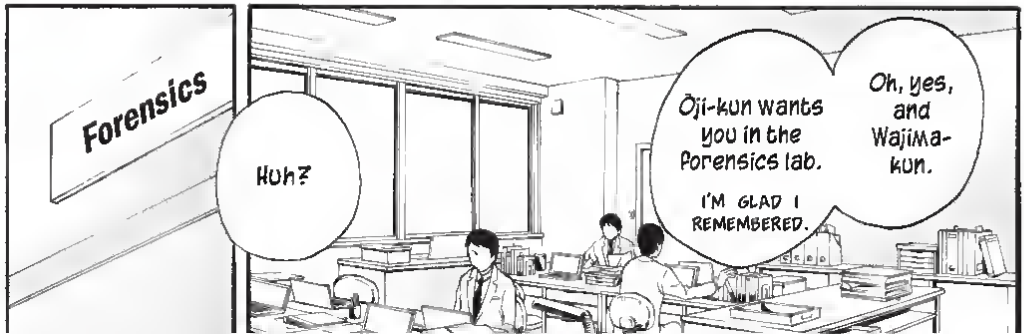
But the London Precinct has decided to continue the investigation!
!


WHIRL
The Violent Crimes Division has decided not to get involved, you see.
About that rooftop hanging!!

Good luck, you two.
From both angles— suicide and homicide.

...Sigh...

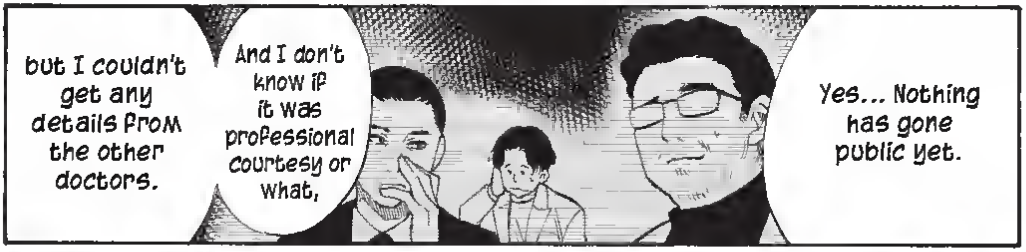
...
Y...yes, sir! Thank you, sir!


Forensics
Huh?
Oji-kun wants you in the forensics lab.
I'M GLAD I REMEMBERED.
Oh, yes, and Wajima-kun.

Chief Yoshida told me to come! Did you finish the tests I asked for?
Hi there!
Ōji-san!
Crime Lab Investigator
Masahiko Ōji
Wajima...it was just like you said.
I sure did. The candy you asked about.
ZHRR
...Okay.
So we have three questions left.
Hmm, then it would seem that Akane is indeed our killer!
I knew it!

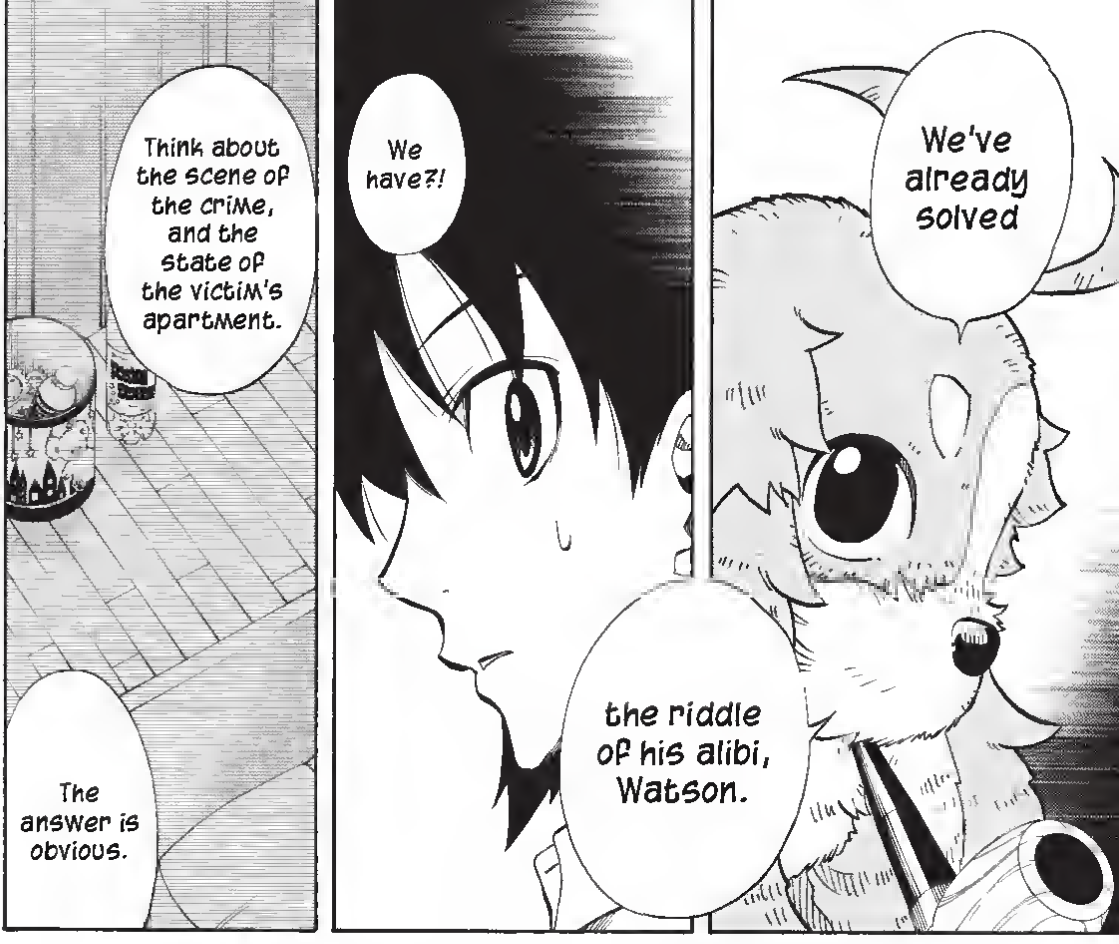
As for the second problem, Miss Miki might find some clues for us.
SIGH
Hmmm, that's a lot to figure out.
The most important thing when questioning suspects is to keep their guard down, after all.
Not only is she very personable, she hardly looks older than a high-school girl.
...
HM?
M...hmmm. I hope the doctors don't try to hit on her or anything...
N-not really...
SMIRK SMIRK
Heh. Worried, Watson?
S...speak of the devil—it's Miki! Hello?
First, there's Hoshiko Ikeda's suicide note.
Second, the motive for murder.
Third, the dead cat in her apartment.
Those are the mysteries we need to solve.

Takeru? I found some things about Dr. Akane's reputation.
Apparently there are some bad rumors going around.
Bad rumors?

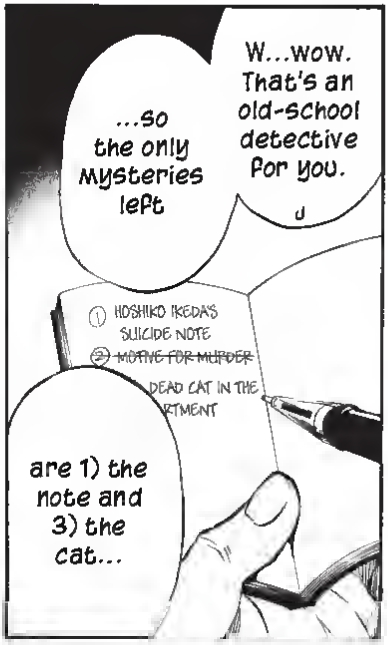

Yes... Nothing has gone public yet.
And I don't know if it was professional courtesy or what,
but I couldn't get any details from the other doctors.

It sounded like he's making a lot of money through illegal practices.
Illegal, huh...?

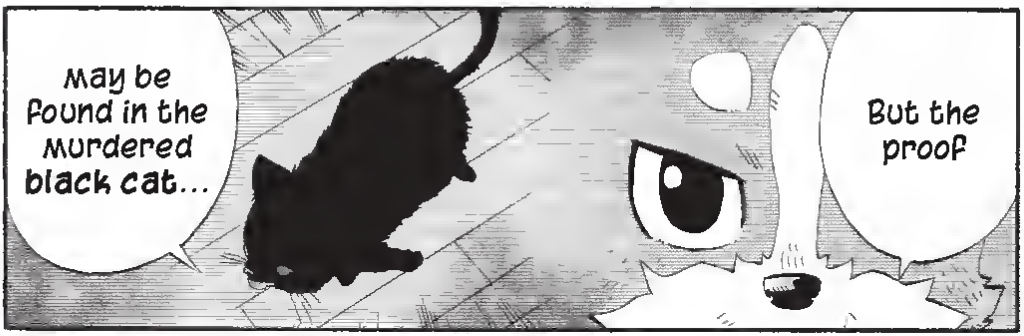
ARF!
That would be sufficient motive for murder!
If that's why Hoshiko Ikeda's face turned out the way it did...
and then, in her search for revenge, she found some proof that would expose his illegal deeds...
Medical Pharmaceuticals IV
That is precisely why he had to make it look like a suicide!!
then it wouldn't take long for the police to expose it if they started an earnest murder investigation.
GRR
If an amateur like Hoshiko was able to unearth his secret,
And Akane has an airtight alibi for her time of death.
But the fact is, it **does** look like suicide.
Wait a second! There's one more thing.
And what is that?
We're saying he **made** it look like a suicide...


Think about the scene of the crime, and the state of the victim's apartment.
The answer is obvious.
We have?!
We've already solved
the riddle of his alibi, Watson.

R-really? So then...
That, combined with the unnatural state of her writings, has given us an answer.
As for the note, Miss Miki just provided us with a motive.
DU-DUN

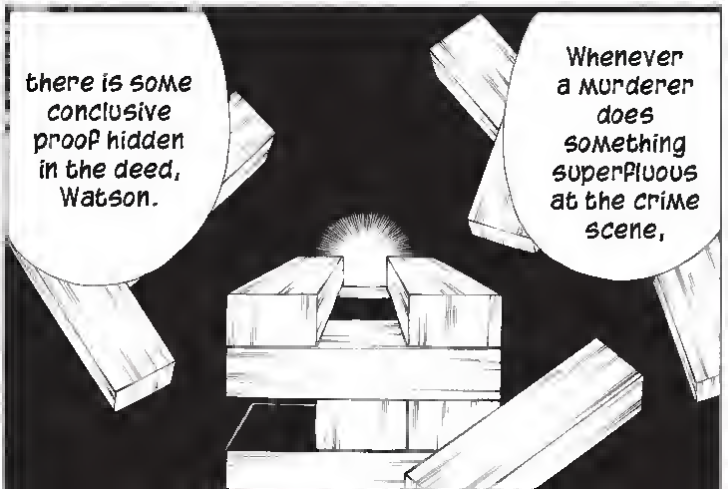

W...wow. That's an old-school detective for you.
...so the only mysteries left are 1) the note and 3) the cat...
① HOSHIKO IKEDA'S SUICIDE NOTE
② ~~MOTIVE FOR MURDER~~
DEAD CAT IN THE RTMENT

Oh yeah, that's right.
Not least of all because we have no solid proof.
GRRR...
No, it won't be that easy.


May be found in the murdered black cat...
But the proof

I get it. That means...
Quite so.

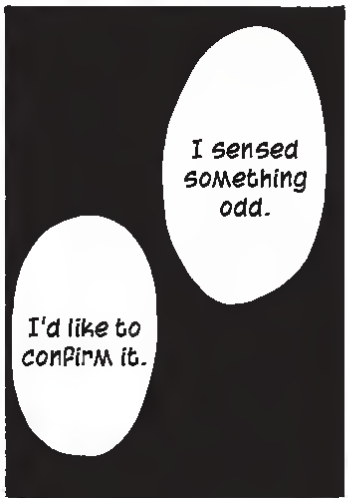
was killed by Dr. Akane!
I have no doubt the cat


there is some conclusive proof hidden in the deed, Watson.
Whenever a murderer does something superfluous at the crime scene,

Let us venture once more into his lair.
We have enough material in our hands
to change the expression on that iron mask of his!

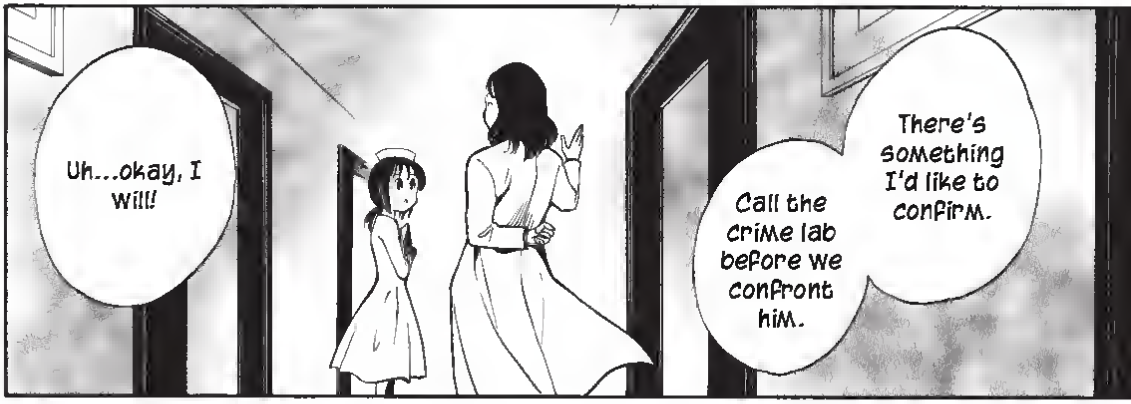
When we talked to the man yesterday,
And there's one more thing.

BLUSH...
KNOCK KNOCK


I sensed something odd.
I'd like to confirm it.

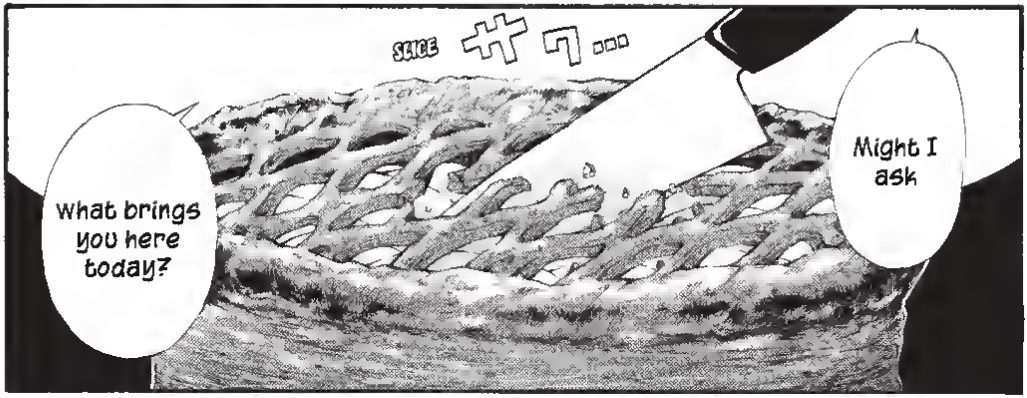
Again?!
The young detective from yesterday is back to see you.
IRK
Sensei, sorry to bother you during your lunch break.
What is it?
FSH
Yes, Sensei.
Thank you. Have him wait in the reception room.
THAT WON'T DO AT ALL.
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
Oops, We mustn't let him see that.
BAM
!
HALT
Ugh, during my special muscle time...
MUTTER MUTTER
Okay, thanks.
Please, join me in the consulting room.
KACHAK
So sorry to keep you waiting!

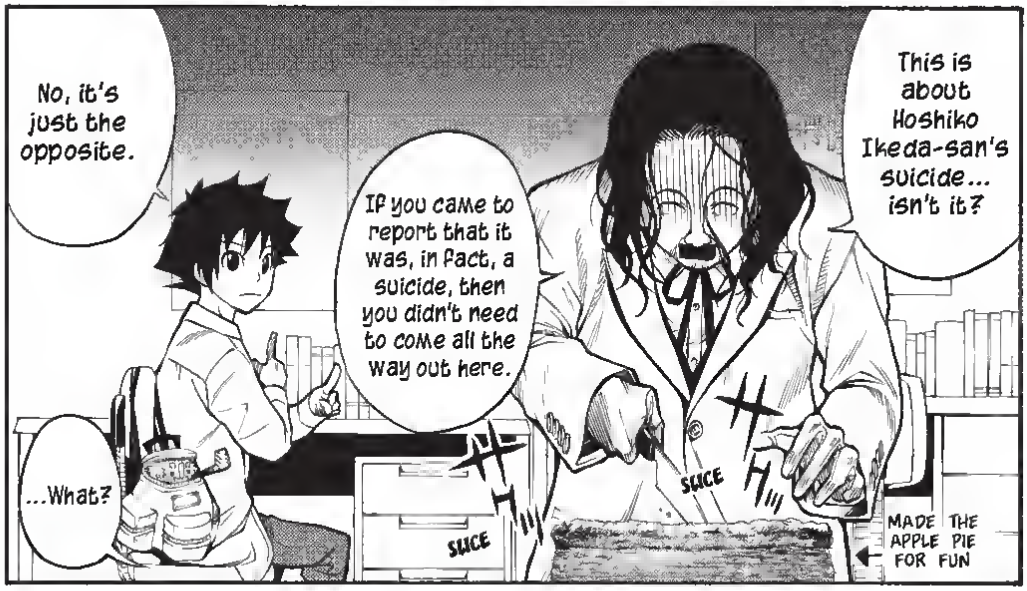
I have it!! I know the significance of the cat's death!!
ARF!!
!!


There's something I'd like to confirm.
Call the crime lab before we confront him.
Uh...okay, I will!

It's time for the finale.
Watson.

Case 9: ⚜ The Stolen Face, Part 5

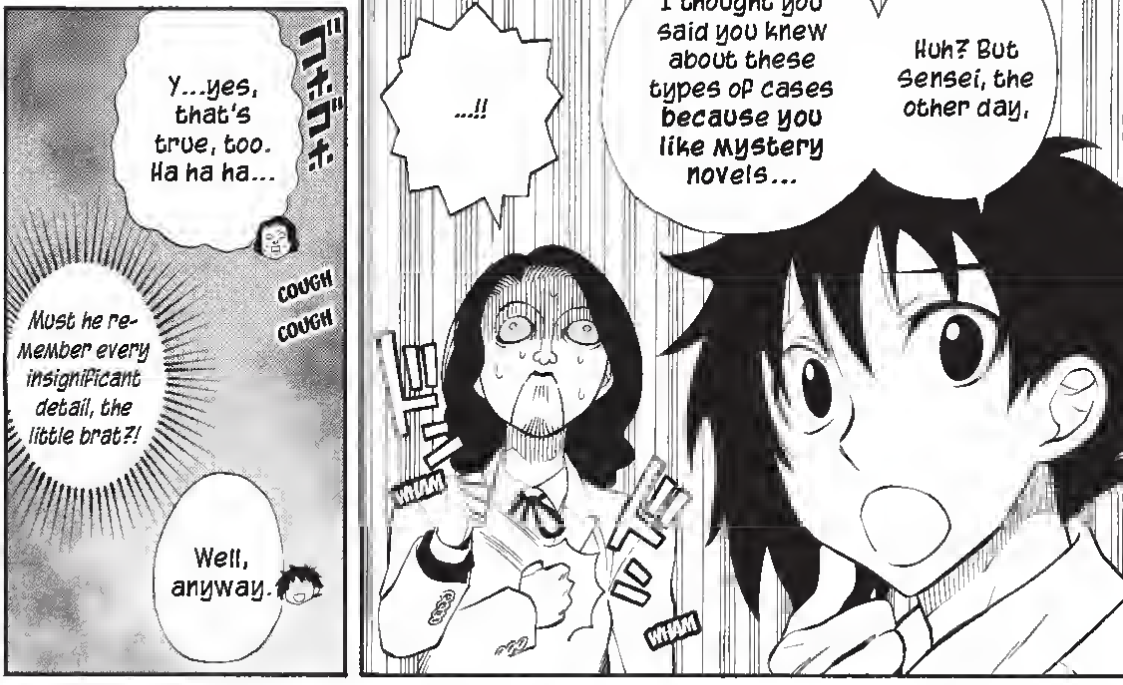


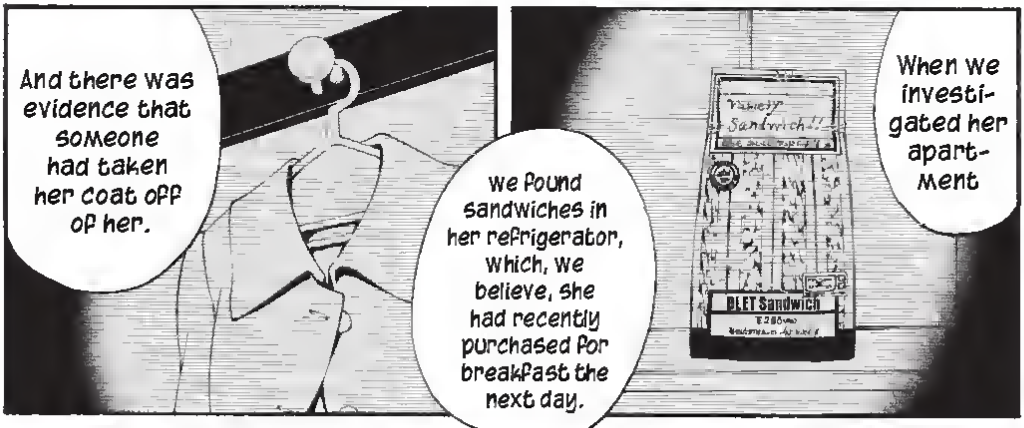

This is about Hoshiko Ikeda-san's suicide... isn't it?
No, it's just the opposite.
If you came to report that it was, in fact, a suicide, then you didn't need to come all the way out here.
...What?
SLICE
SLICE
MADE THE APPLE PIE FOR FUN

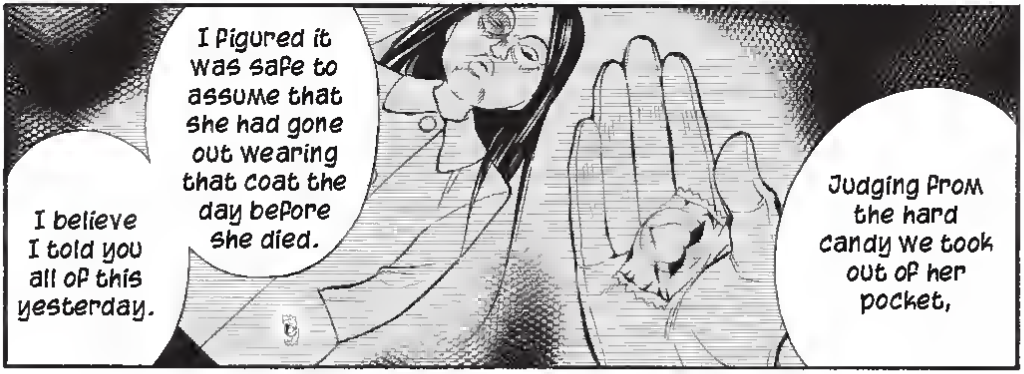
The little boy detective found something?!
He's bluffing! He can't beat me!!
I-i-i-is... that so...
H-HERE YOU ARE.
JUST A BIT
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
TH THANK YOU.
Yes, as I told you yesterday...

I started to suspect something
But instead of jumping, which would have been the fastest way to die,
she went through all the trouble to hang herself.
because she went all the way to the roof to kill herself.
I also noticed her clothes.
Add to that...
Somehow, they had gotten wet from the rain, which stopped two hours before the hanging.

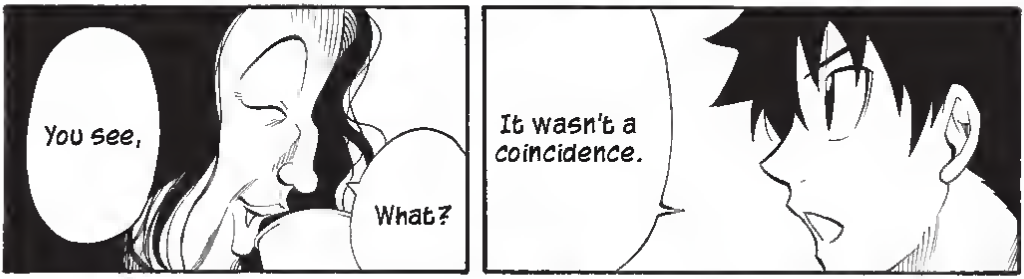
..the spot on top of the water tower wasn't wet from the rain,
and I figured there was some sort of cover-up going on.
and was just big enough for the victim to have been lying there,
That's why I went to investigate her apartment.
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
You have quite the deductive powers for someone so young...
Oh... oho.
And quite the impertinence!
But you see,
Things don't always work out like they would in a mystery novel.
someone on the verge of suicide does a lot of things that can't be explained with logic.
...
Oh, dear. Such provocative eyes...
I know these things. You see, I studied psychology.
I thought it would be useful in cosmetic surgery...
SLURP


Y...yes, that's true, too. Ha ha ha...
COUGH COUGH
Must he re-Member every insignificant detail, the little brat?!
Well, anyway.
...!!
I thought you said you knew about these types of cases because you like mystery novels...
Huh? But Sensei, the other day,
WHAM
WHAM

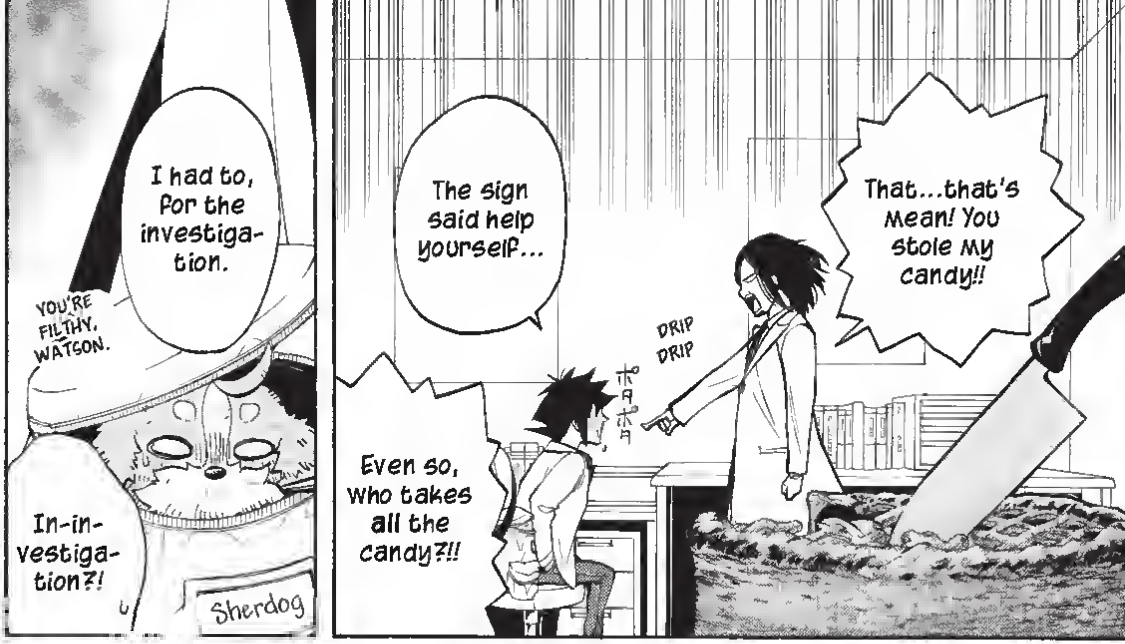

And there was evidence that someone had taken her coat off of her.
We found sandwiches in her refrigerator, which, we believe, she had recently purchased for breakfast the next day.
When we investigated her apartment
BLT Sandwich


I believe I told you all of this yesterday.
I figured it was safe to assume that she had gone out wearing that coat the day before she died.
Judging from the hard candy we took out of her pocket,

CHOMP
Yes, I remember.
ズズ
S-SIP...
It happened to be the same candy that I have in my waiting room.
CHOMP
But I've already done away with that evidence! Yee hee hee hee!!


You see,
What?
It wasn't a coincidence.

When I came here yesterday,
I helped myself to all of the candy in the basket.
!!
PFFT


I had to, for the investigation.
YOU'RE FILTHY, WATSON.
In-in-vestigation?!
Sherdog
The sign said help yourself...
Even so, who takes all the candy?!!
DRIP DRIP
That...that's Mean! You stole my candy!!

you fish around with your hand to get the flavor you want.
Yes. You know, when you take candy out of a basket,

G-DMP
If the victim came here the day before she died,
I thought she might have left some prints, so I had the crime lab check it out.

Akane-san... did the victim come to your clinic
the day before she died?
But, uh... Maybe she left without seeing anyone... Hmmm...
SLICE
I...I don't know.
It's possible she wandered in here before she died.
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
...
I'm not really sure...
No, no, no...
No, your receptionist tells me
she refilled the candy basket after the patients left.
Right before she went home.
orry We're Closed

after it was closed.
The victim would have come to the clinic
...
BOOK
That's the only explanation.
When you were the only one here.
Ooohhh, Maybe!!
I KNOW!!
PRICK
CUM
?!
I NEED AN EXCUSE AN EXCUSE AN EXCUSE AN EXCUSE...
WH...WHAT DO I DO? I'M IN A PICKLE!!
OH NO... OH NO... HOW AROUS-ING...I MEAN...
SL SLURP
SL SLURP

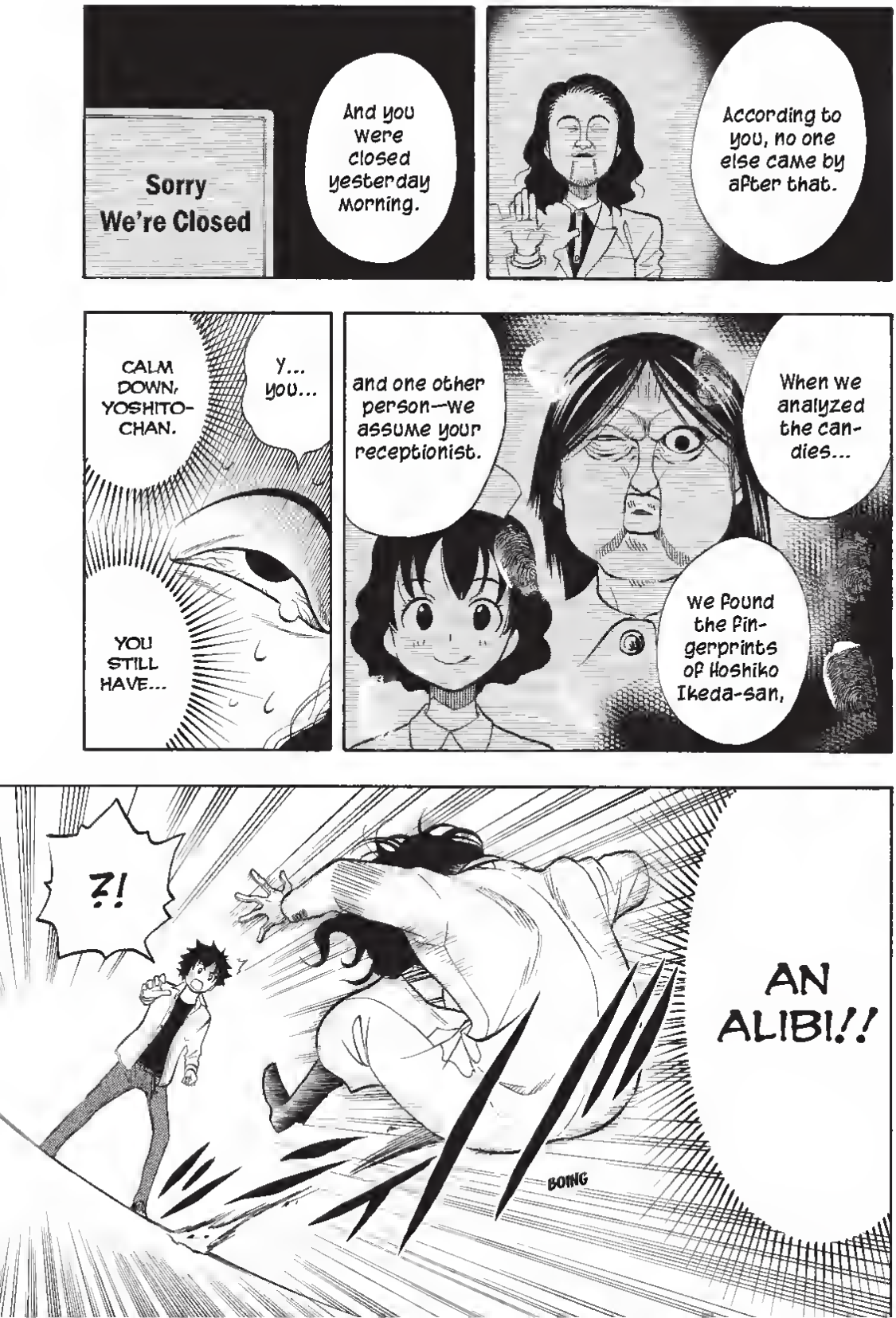
Maybe Hoshiko-san let herself in!
TSS
Why?
I must have forgotten to lock the front door
Oh, honey...I mean, Detective.
While I was cleaning up for the day!
But the door would have been locked.
Maybe...she really did blame me...
SLUMP
...
...
CLANG
...Because...
What? Because you keep making these absurd accusations, of course!
...
...Why are you so worked up?
THIS MAN'S SPEECH KEEPS GETTING STRANGER...
She's remembering wrong!
No, she most certainly did not!!
WHY MUST YOU KEEP ASKING ABOUT SUCH TRIFLING DETAILS?!
When I talked to your receptionist just now, she said she locked up before she left.

I never said that.
...What?
Accusations?
YANK
You said Hoshiko Ikeda's fingerprints were on the candy!
There might be fingerprints, so I took them and had the crime lab analyze them.
That's all I said.

YOU TRICKED ME?!
NO FAIR!! THAT'S CHEAT-ING, YOU CHEATER!!

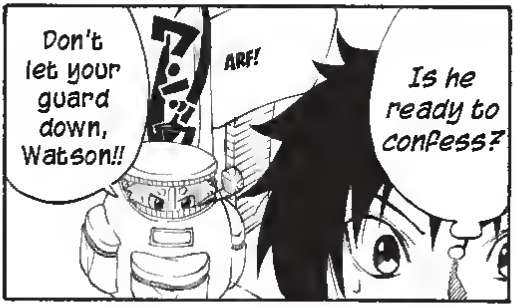
Akane-sensei.
Erk...
...!
Did you think
that there were prints?
I...I-I-I...
You would think that!

Because you knew
that Hoshiko Ikeda-san
did come to your clinic. ...Isn't that right?
HOW LONG MUST THE BOY TORMENT ME?!
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
NGH... AAAGH...!!
Your receptionist tells me she bought some that day.
When the clinic closed, she changed out all the candy and then went home.
Those candies were a new product.
They went on sale the day before the incident.
NEW
NEW HARD CANDY
Fruit


Sorry
We're Closed
And you were closed yesterday morning.
According to you, no one else came by after that.
CALM DOWN, YOSHITO-CHAN.
Y... you...
YOU STILL HAVE...
and one other person—we assume your receptionist.
When we analyzed the candies...
We found the fingerprints of Hoshiko Ikeda-san,
?!
AN ALIBI!!
BOING

I'M SO SORRY!
What...?

!
He won't go down that easily!
NOD


Don't let your guard down, Watson!!
ARF!
Is he ready to confess?

I'll do whatever it takes to fix it, free of charge."
"Please don't do anything hasty.

...She came to give me a piece of her mind.
Of course I tried to calm her down.

But she would not be persuaded...
That's what I said to her.

"I don't blame you, Sensei.
Thank you for all you've done."
My one sliver of hope
was the last thing she said to me.
...she said...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
Nice work, Yoshito!! Now everything fits, and you're not the bad guy!!
And how do you like my starlet performance? Well? Oh ho ho ho!!
ARF!
Sic him!
Watson!!

TH-THIS IS CHARACTER ASSASSI-NATION! I'LL SUE!!
WHY WOULD I BE THE KILLER?!
If the police investigate your home,
I'm sure it won't take them long to find your motive.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
You've been importing illegal drugs
and using them on your patients, claiming they were high-end products.
My sources tell me you were making a killing.
...you killed Hoshiko Ikeda!
...WHAT?!
The truth is...
Huh? What...?
You're lying.
Those are crocodile tears.

B-BE... BESIDES, HOSHIKO KILLED HERSELF IN THE MORN-ING...
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?!
WHEN WAS IT? YOU SAID IT WAS SIX OR SEVEN, RIGHT?!
I'LL SUE THEM, TOO!!
Huh...? Did I say that?
YOU DID!
Okay, and?

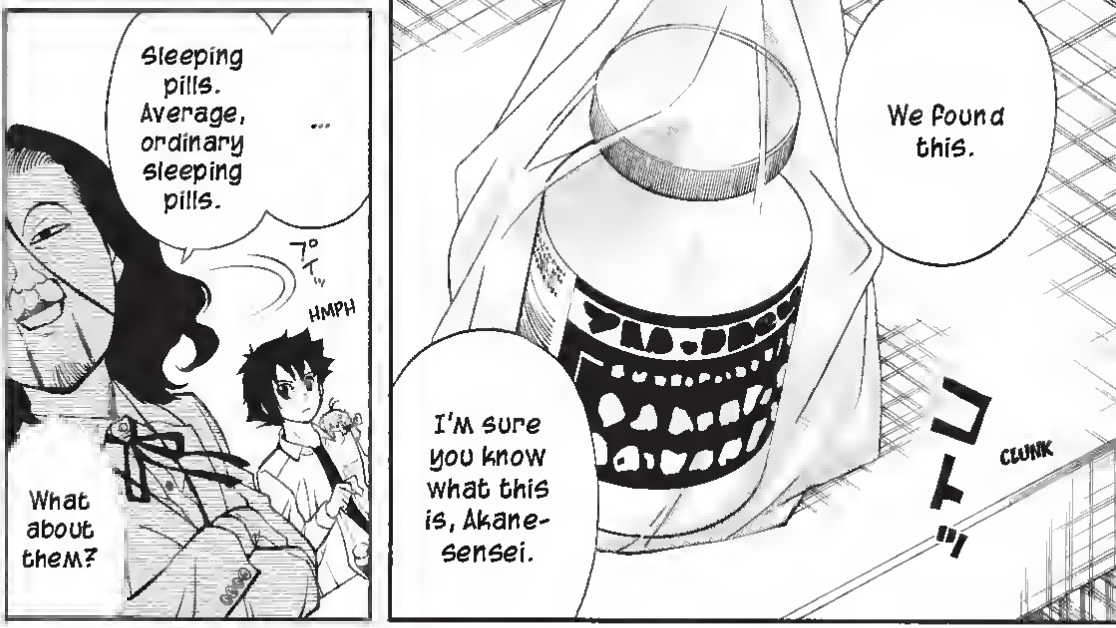
The editors were with me!!
I have wit-nesses!
I had gone out early to be interviewed for a golf magazine!
My alibi!
I have an alibi!

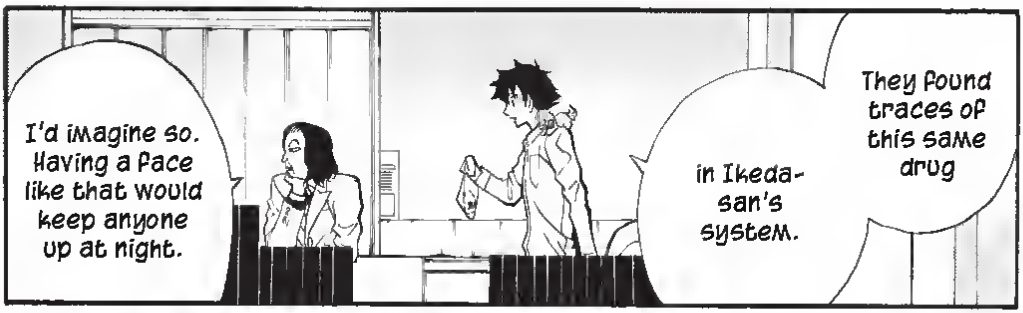
They also said you started snoring the second you got in the car to go home.
They said you were **extremely sleepy** and constantly hitting your ball out of bounds.
Yes...I have their testimonies.

I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE HALF A DAY GOLFING! I HAD TO PICK UP THE SLACK!
HMMM? Working on what?
I-I-I...I WAS NOT!
I WAS AT HOME, WORKING! WORKING! WORKING!!
Sounds like you were up all night!
Up all night... killing Hoshiko Ikeda!!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN ON THE ROOF AT SIX IN THE MORNING
A LAYMAN WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!! AND ANYWAY, WHAT ABOUT MY ALIBI?!!
ALIBI ALIBI ALIBI ALIBI!!!!!!!!!
HANGING HOSHIKO BY THE NECK?!! TELL ME THAT!!
...

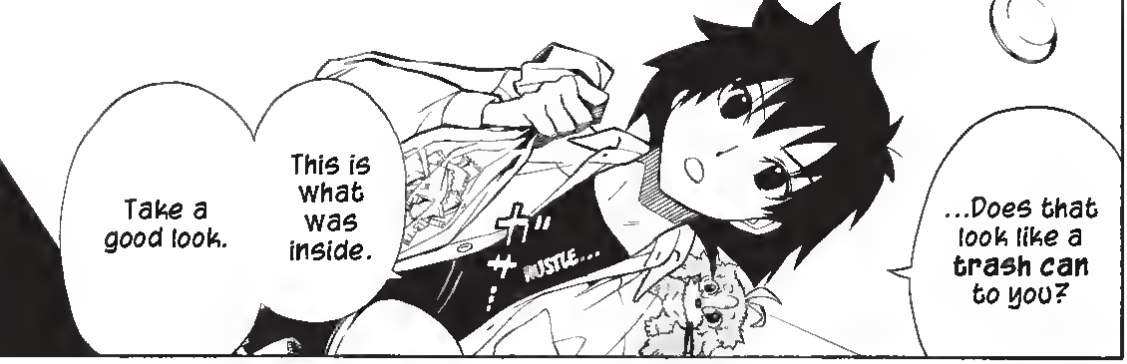
...What?
G-GULP
and knock it to pieces.
I'll take your alibi
Okay, I will.
and make Hoshiko Ikeda hang herself!!
You used a cruel and heartless trick
Cosmetic Surgeon Yoshito Akane.
to create an ironclad alibi

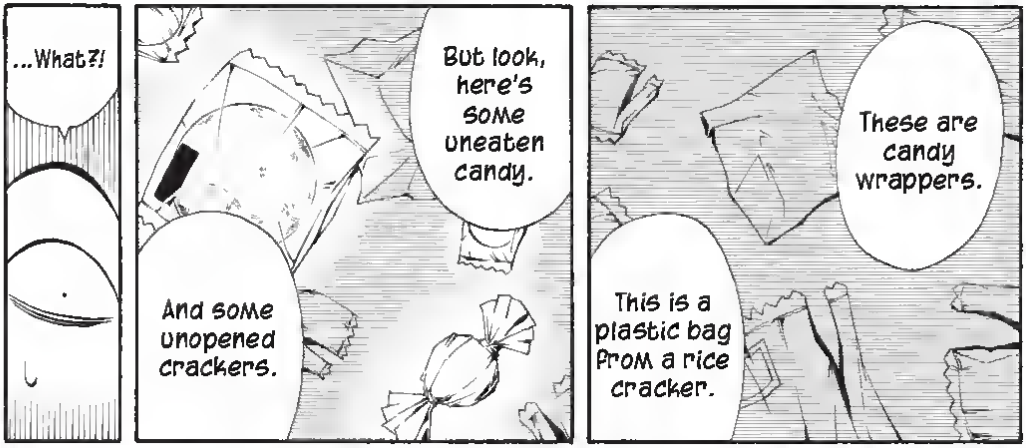
Cosmetic surgeon Yoshito Akane.
You used a cruel and heartless trick
to create an ironclad alibi
and make Hoshiko Ikeda hang herself!!
Wha...?!
Don't let his bluff beat you, Yoshito!!
You see, when we searched her apartment...

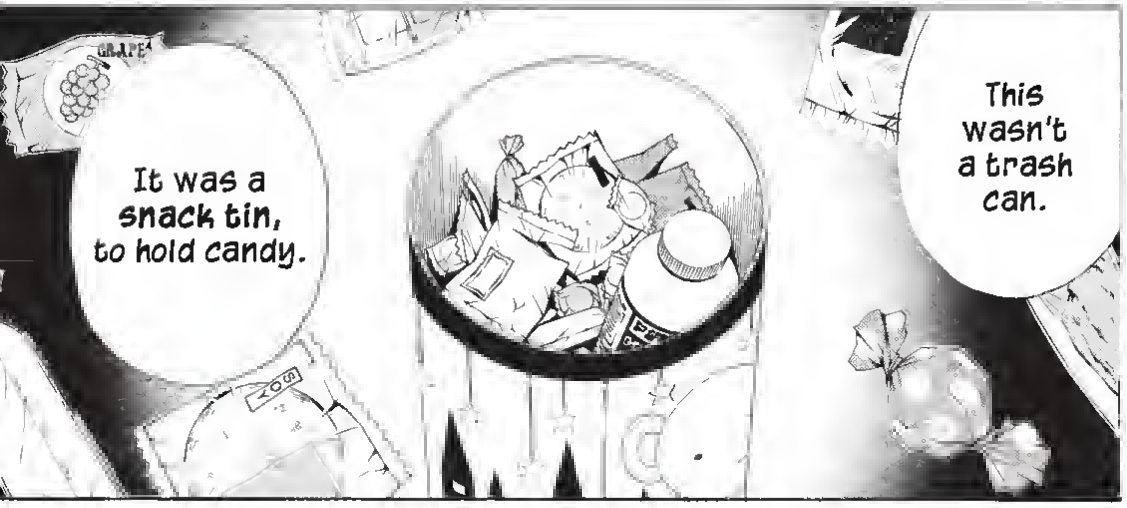

We found this.
CLUNK
I'M sure you know what this is, Akane-sensei.
Sleeping pills. Average, ordinary sleeping pills.
...
HMPH
What about them?


They found traces of this same drug in Ikeda-san's system.
I'd imagine so. Having a face like that would keep anyone up at night.

The thing is, we found this empty bottle...
...
SS...
Here, as you can see in this photo.
So she took the last one and threw the bottle away. So what?


Take a good look.
This is what was inside.
RUSTLE...
...Does that look like a trash can to you?


...What?!
But look, here's some uneaten candy.
And some unopened crackers.
These are candy wrappers.
This is a plastic bag from a rice cracker.


It was a snack tin, to hold candy.
This wasn't a trash can.

So she put the wrappers back in the snack tin to throw away later...I'm pretty sure a lot of people do that.
It's a pain to have to get up and walk to the trash can for every candy.
B...but there was trash in it—empty wrappers!

So why would she put a bottle of sleeping pills there?
But there was no sign of tissues
or any other kind of trash.
I suspect the killer
H-how should I know?
Since they didn't find any in her stomach or intestines.
He must have found a place that wouldn't be too obvious,
to inject it directly into her blood-stream.
used a drug to put Hoshiko Ikeda to sleep
so he could get everything ready to kill her.
...
the drug was sure to be found in her system.
But he knew that if an autopsy were done,

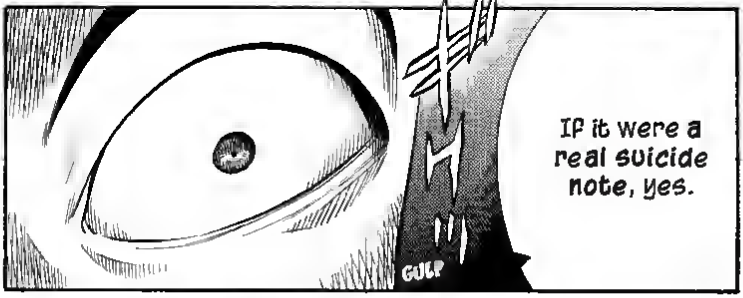
Hoshiko-san herself would never have done such a thing.
But he put it in the snack tin by mistake.
N... no...
and put an empty bottle of pills with the same chemical makeup in the trash can.
So he wanted to make it look like she used it regularly.
And you administered just enough of the drug to make sure she woke up at six in the morning.
She was here, in a room in this clinic.
carried her up to the water tower on the roof.
and tied a rope around her neck.
and drove her to her apartment.
Then you put her in your car
You changed her into lounge-wear,

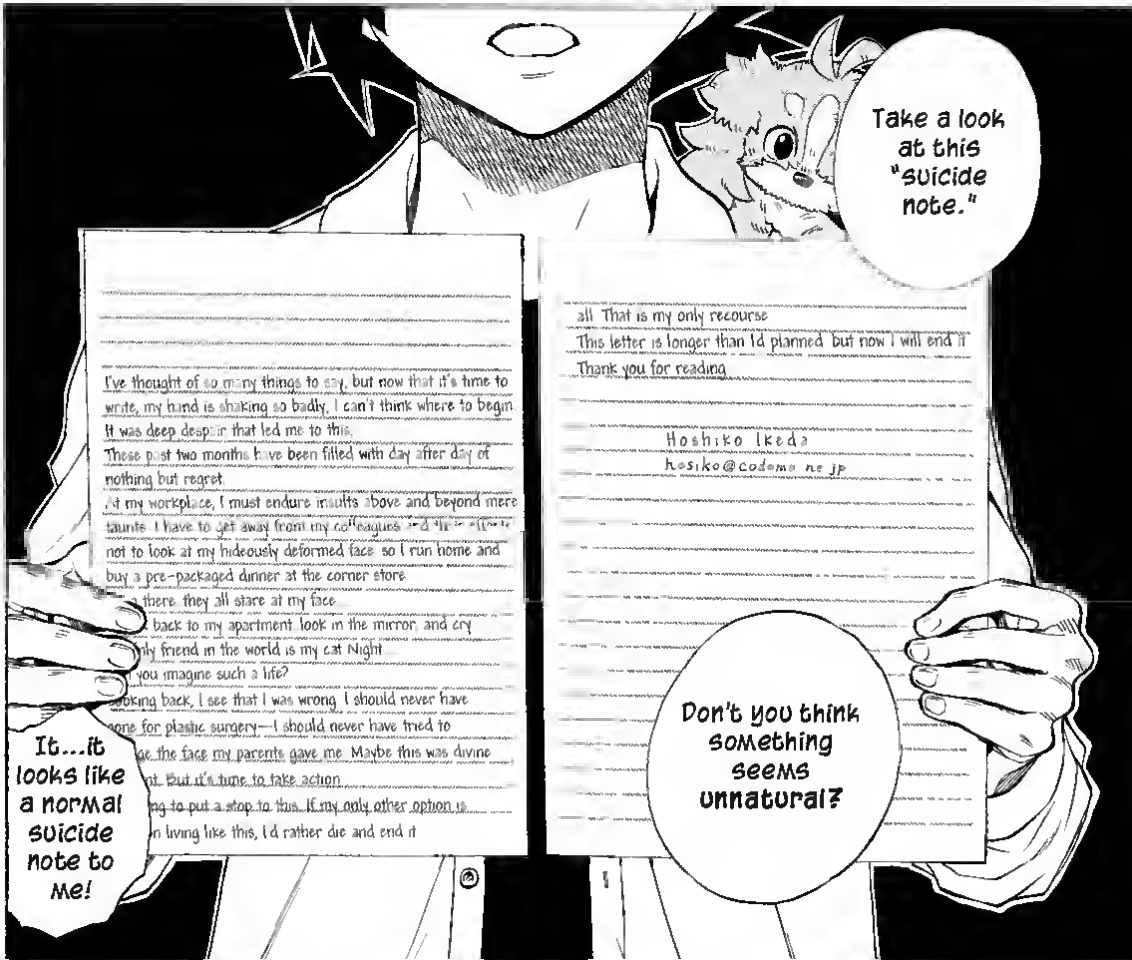
Once you'd finished your preparations,
you rearranged the room to make it fit your scenario and went home.
...
at the very edge of an already slanting water tower roof.
To top it all off, you laid her down
...
MUNCH MUNCH
To get your alibi,
you went to meet the editors for your appointment.
Then, after hardly any sleep,
Still groggy, she tried to get up...
GNN
She had no idea where she was.
And while you were golfing with the editors,
Ikeda-san woke from her drug-induced state, just as you'd planned.

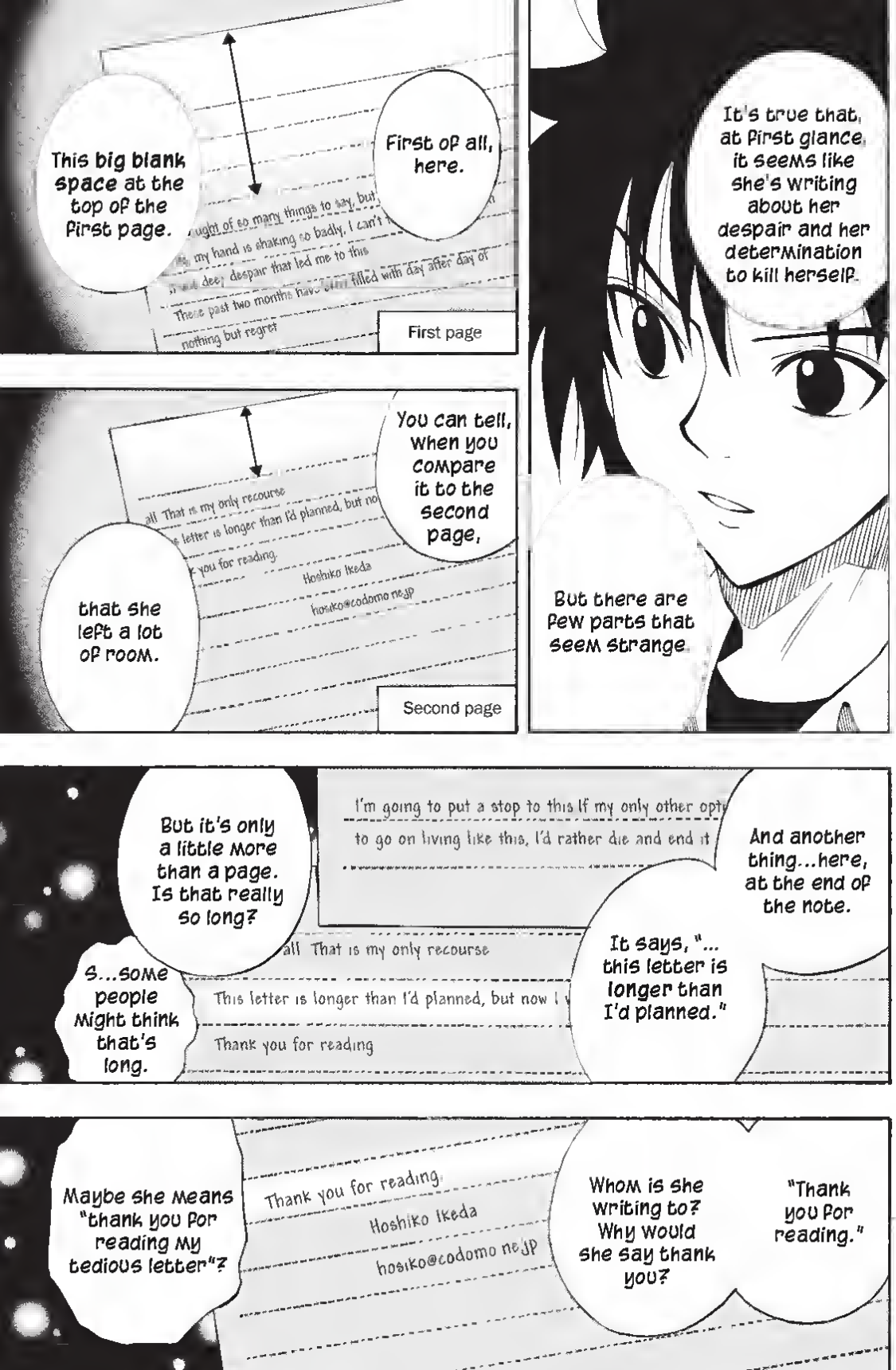
At which point she fell from the water tower
and died a painful death!
The reason the edge of the water tower was dry is that she had been sleeping there for so long.
She stayed there through the rain because she was unconscious. It all fits!
Then what about the note?!
BAM

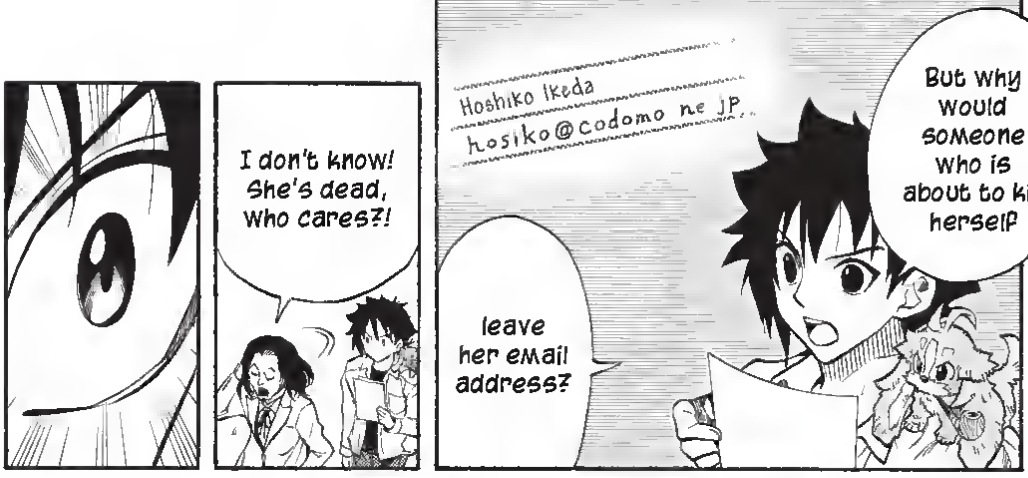
...
If she left a note, it had to be suicide!!
That was in her handwriting!
The suicide note Hoshiko wrote!!

...What do you mean?

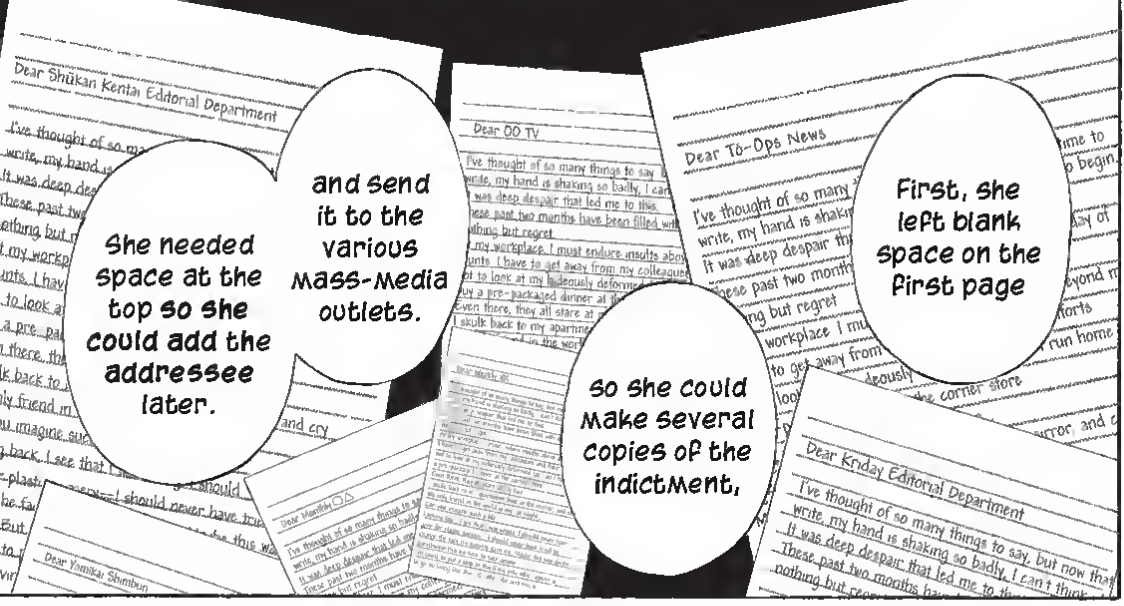

If it were a real suicide note, yes.
GULP

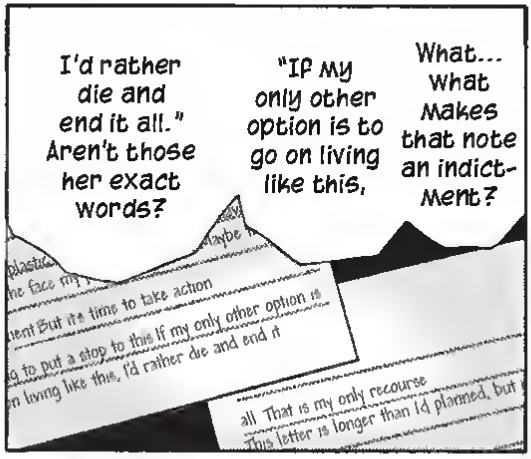

Take a look at this "suicide note."
I've thought of so many things to say, but now that it's time to write, my hand is shaking so badly, I can't think where to begin.
It was deep despair that led me to this.
These past two months have been filled with day after day of nothing but regret.
At my workplace, I must endure insults above and beyond mere taunts. I have to get away from my colleagues and their stares not to look at my hideously deformed face, so I run home and buy a pre-packaged dinner at the corner store.
there, they all stare at my face.
back to my apartment, look in the mirror, and cry.
nly friend in the world is my cat Night.
you imagine such a life?
oking back, I see that I was wrong. I should never have gone for plastic surgery—I should never have tried to ge the face my parents gave me. Maybe this was divine nt. But it's time to take action.
ng to put a stop to this. If my only other option is n living like this, I'd rather die and end it.
all. That is my only recourse.
This letter is longer than I'd planned, but now I will end it.
Thank you for reading.
Hoshiko Ikeda
hosiko@codemo.ne.jp
It...it looks like a normal suicide note to me!
Don't you think something seems unnatural?

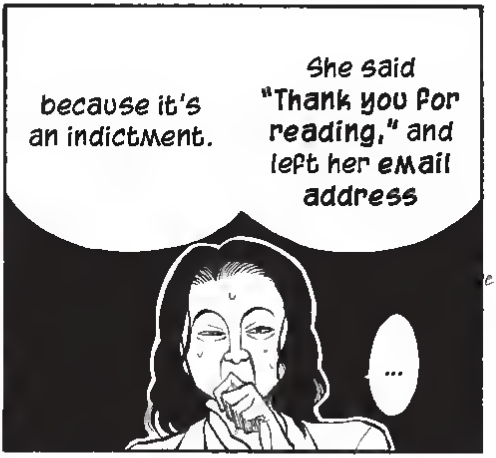

This big blank space at the top of the first page.
First of all, here.
First page
It's true that, at first glance, it seems like she's writing about her despair and her determination to kill herself.
You can tell, when you compare it to the second page,
that she left a lot of room.
Second page
But there are few parts that seem strange.
But it's only a little more than a page. Is that really so long?
S...some people might think that's long.
I'm going to put a stop to this if my only other opt
to go on living like this, I'd rather die and end it
all That is my only recourse
This letter is longer than I'd planned, but now I
Thank you for reading
And another thing...here, at the end of the note.
It says, "... this letter is longer than I'd planned."
Maybe she means "thank you for reading my tedious letter"?
Thank you for reading
Hoshiko Ikeda
hoshiko@kodomo.ne.jp
Whom is she writing to? Why would she say thank you?
"Thank you for reading."


But why would someone who is about to kill herself
Hoshiko Ikeda
hosiko@codomo.ne.jp
leave her email address?
I don't know! She's dead, who cares?!

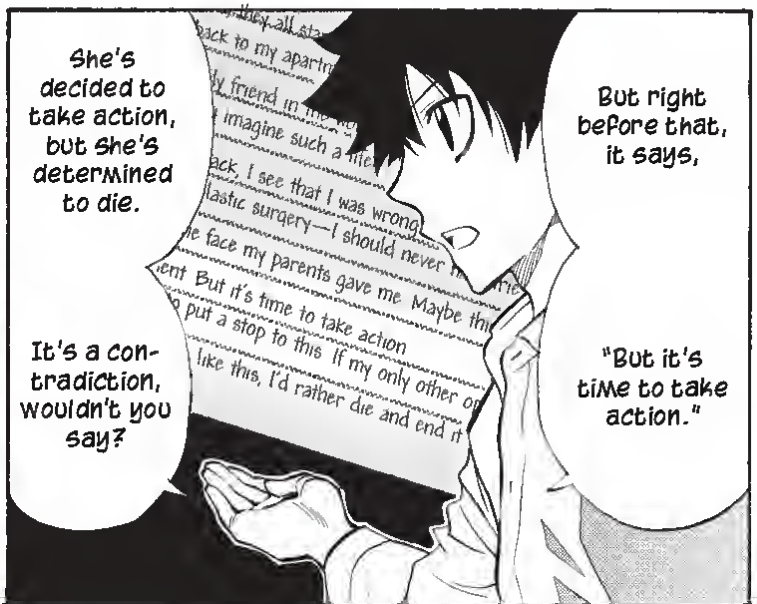
This wasn't really a suicide note!
revealing all your crimes!!
It was an indictment
!!


Dear Shūkan Kentai Editorial Department
Dear OO TV
Dear To-Ops News
Dear Kriday Editorial Department
Dear Yomikai Shimbun
She needed space at the top so she could add the addressee later.
and send it to the various mass-media outlets.
First, she left blank space on the first page
so she could make several copies of the indictment,

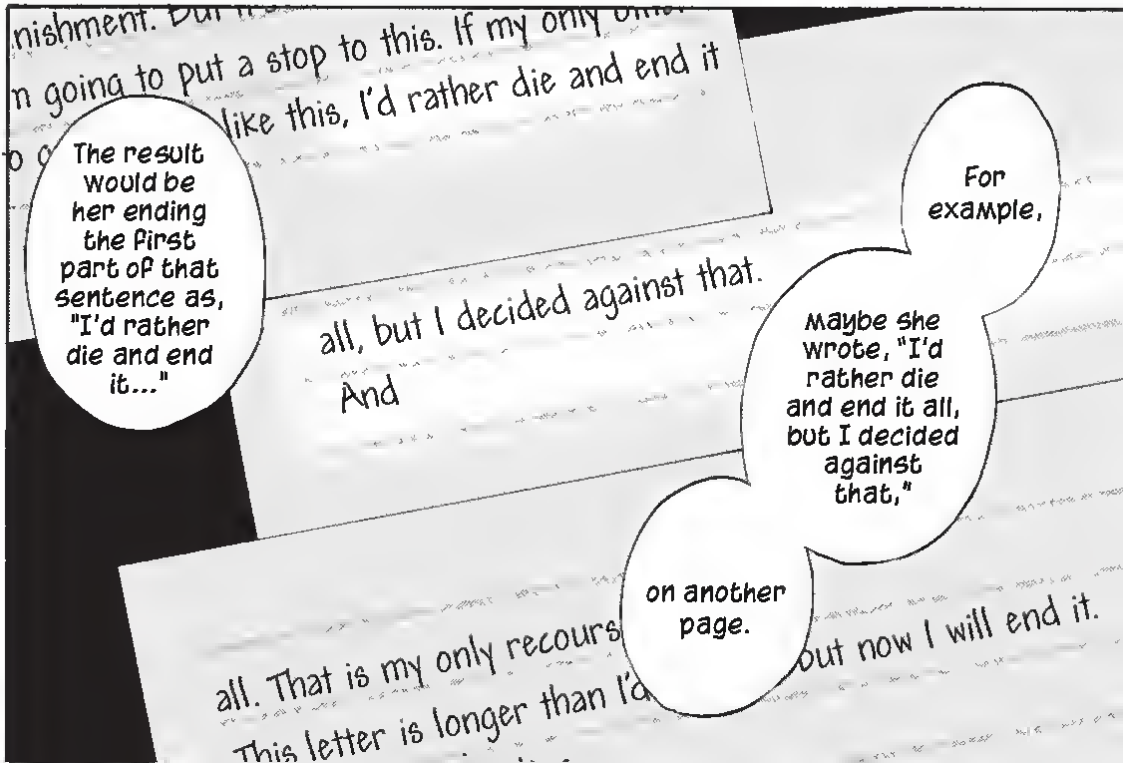

I'd rather die and end it all." Aren't those her exact words?
"If my only other option is to go on living like this,
What... What makes that note an indict-ment?
to put a stop to this if my only other option is
n living like this, I'd rather die and end it
all That is my only recourse
This letter is longer than I'd planned, but

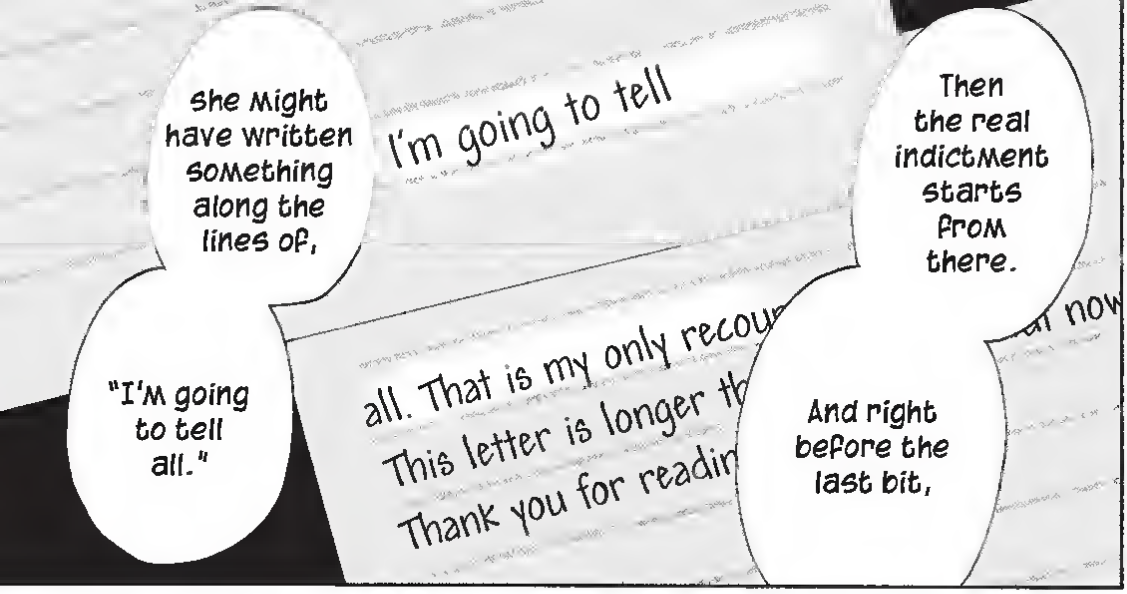

because it's an indictment.
She said "Thank you for reading," and left her email address
...

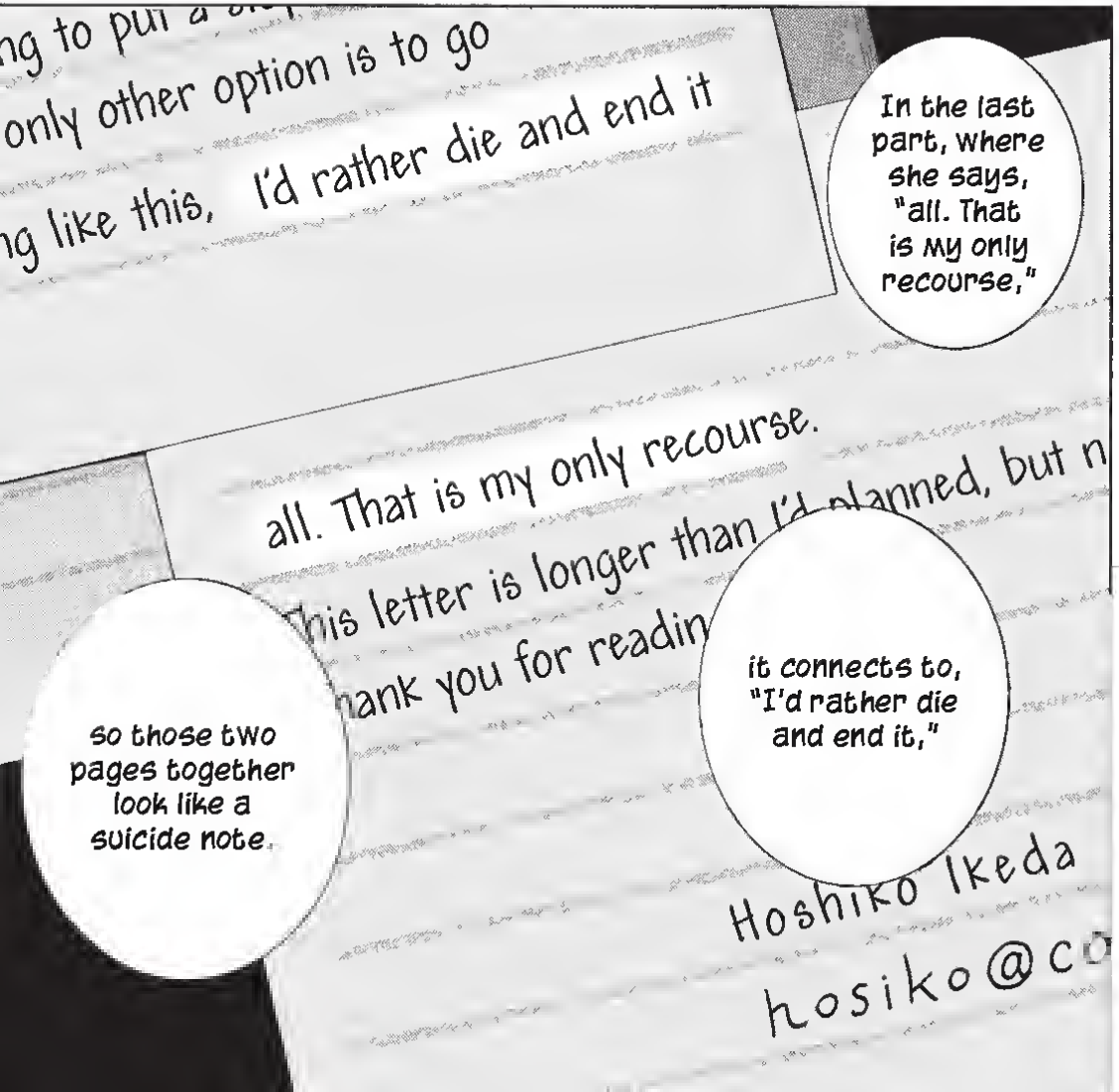
May...Maybe the "action" she's de-cided to take is suicide?
You think so?


She's decided to take action, but she's determined to die.
It's a con-tradiction, wouldn't you say?
But right before that, it says,
"But it's time to take action."

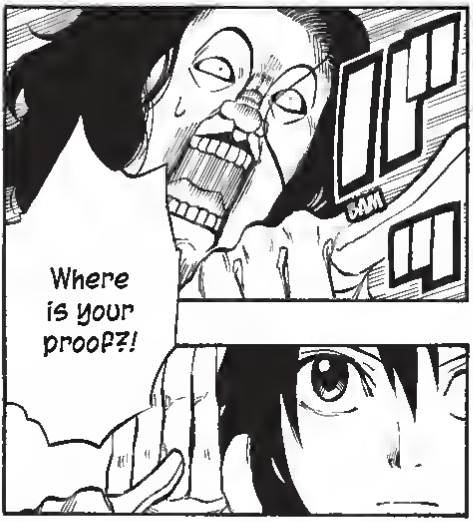
I wonder if
between these two pages.
there was more to this long indictment letter

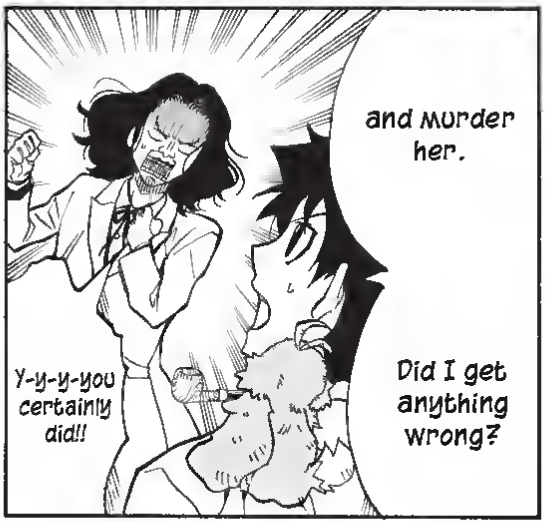

The result would be her ending the first part of that sentence as, "I'd rather die and end it..."
For example,
Maybe she wrote, "I'd rather die and end it all, but I decided against that,"
on another page.
all, but I decided against that.
And
all. That is my only recours
out now I will end it.


I'm going to tell
all. That is my only recou
This letter is longer th
Thank you for readin
she might have written something along the lines of,
"I'm going to tell all."
Then the real indictment starts from there.
And right before the last bit,


only other option is to go
like this, I'd rather die and end it
all. That is my only recourse.
In the last part, where she says, "all. That is my only recourse,"
so those two pages together look like a suicide note.
it connects to, "I'd rather die and end it,"
Hoshiko Ikeda

That's how you got the idea to turn it into a fake suicide note
that Ikeda-san showed you this letter?
Akane-san, is it possible


Where is your proof?!

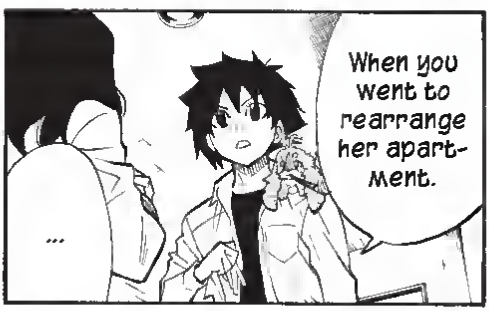

and murder her.
Y-y-y-you certainly did!!
Did I get anything wrong?

The proof is right there...
under your surgical gloves.

It doesn't make a lot of sense that you would put gloves on just to answer my questions!!
You weren't with a patient, and now it's your lunch break.
!!
I know you had just been golfing.
And in fact, the first time I met you,
you were wearing a golf glove on your left hand. That was strange, too.
But why would you keep your glove on when you're not playing? It's awfully suspicious.
...
remove your gloves, Akane-sensei?
...Would you

From Hoshiko Ikeda-san's black cat, didn't you?
You got that
SS...

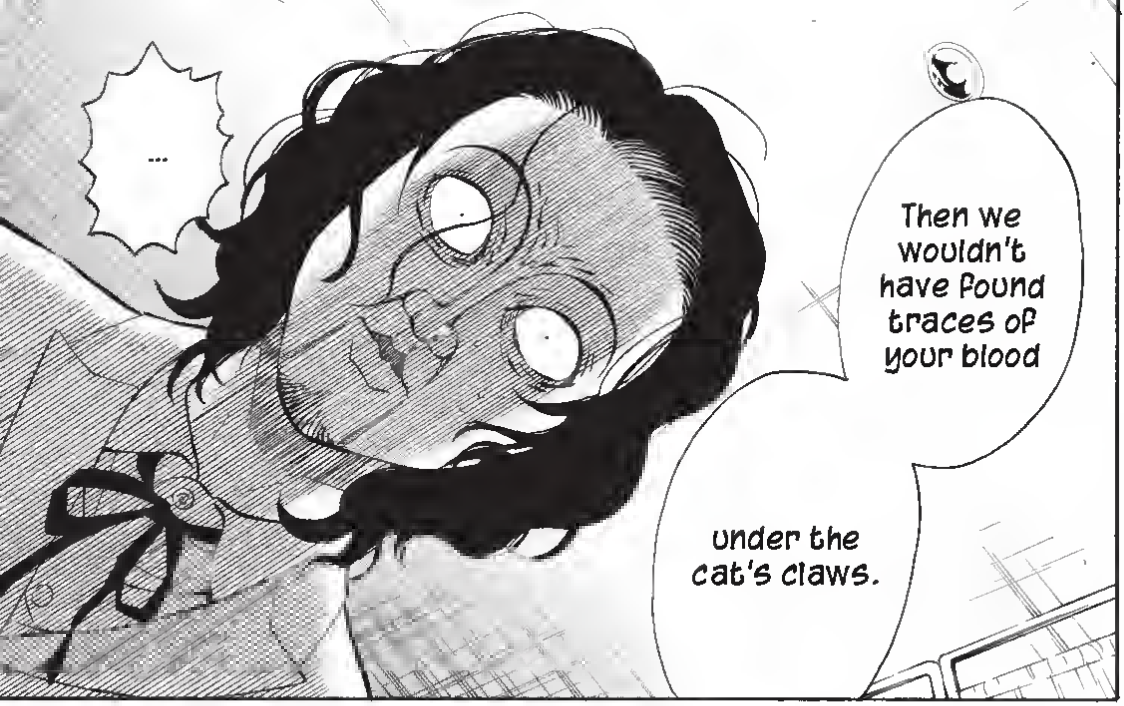
I thought it was strange that you would bother with the cat, too.
When we first saw the dead cat in her apartment,


...
When you went to rearrange her apartment.

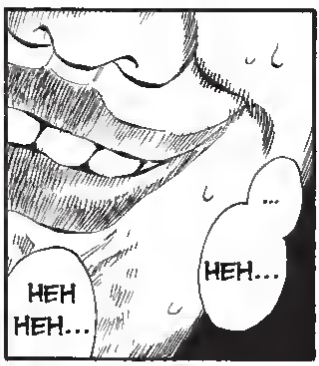
What ...?
You should have left it alone
or set it loose outside.

Killing the cat
was your biggest Mistake.

But it scratched you, so you snapped and killed it.
N-no... I got this from a neighborhood cat. These gloves are to hide the shameful scar...


...
Then we wouldn't have found traces of your blood
under the cat's claws.

HO HO HO HO!
ALL I DID WAS PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY!!
NO ONE CAN GO ON LIVING WITH A FACE LIKE THAT!!


...
HEH...
HEH HEH...

WHAT DID I DO WRONG? TELL ME!
!

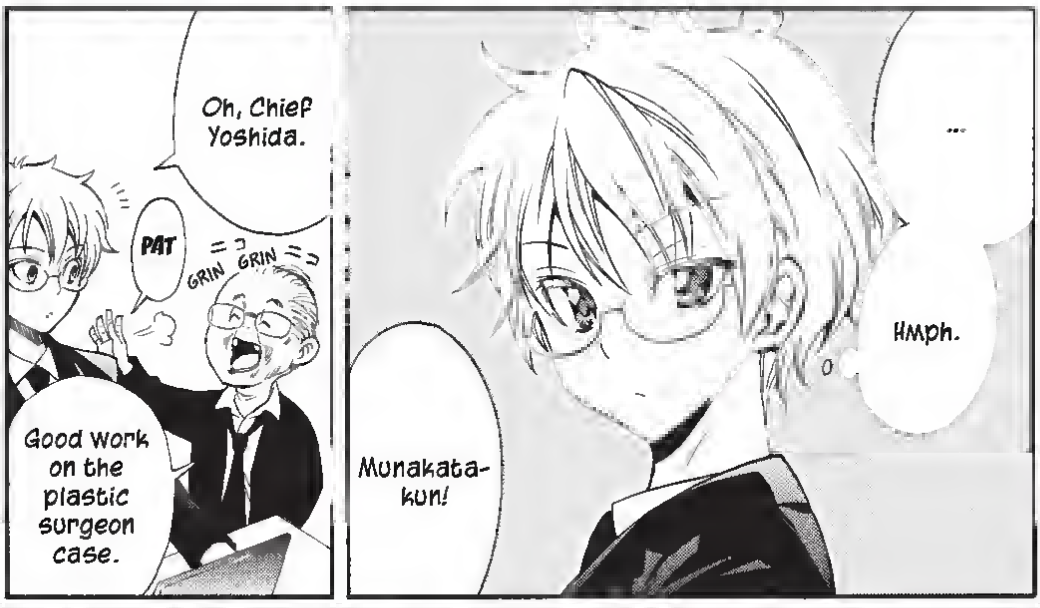
Damn you!!
GRAB

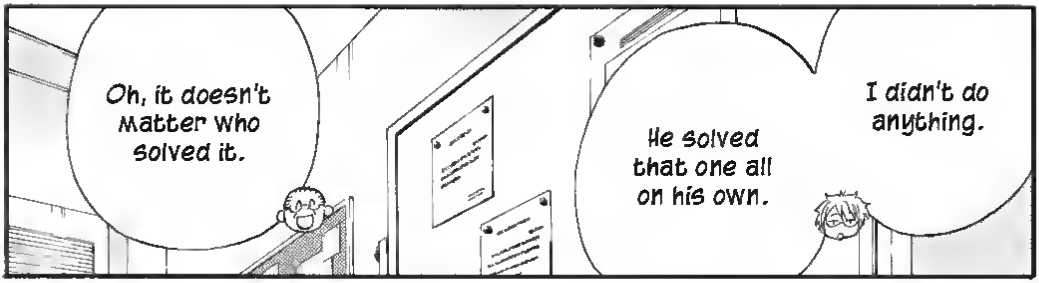
Stop, Watson.

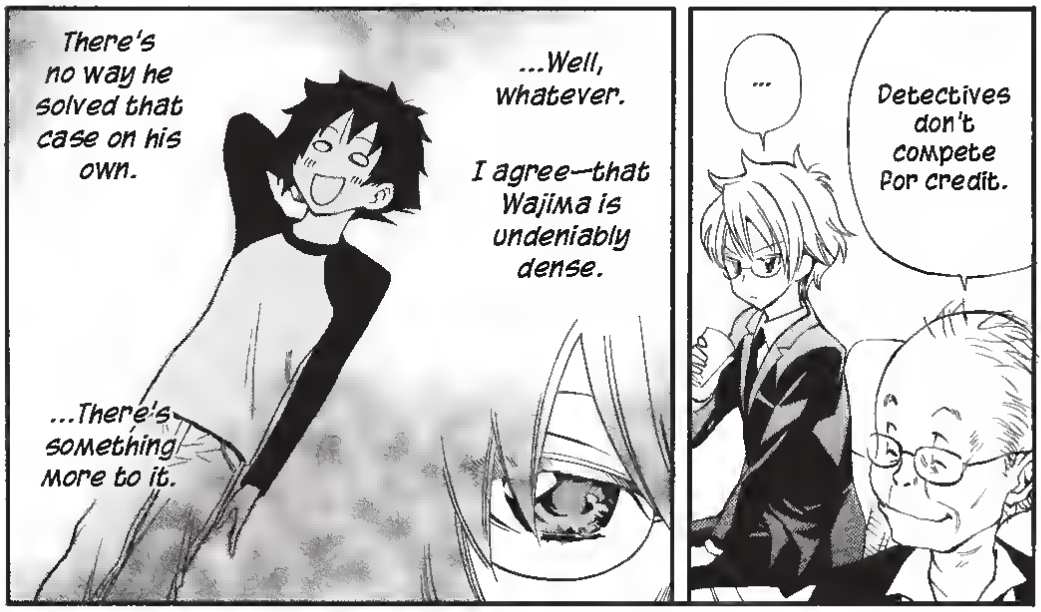
So said the great American lecturer, Dale Carnegie.
"When we hate our enemies,
we are giving them power over us."
...
To a detective, his own hatred
is merely another enemy to be subdued, Watson.

...Cosmetic Surgeon Yoshito Akane,
you're under arrest
for the murder of Hoshiko Ikeda!!

Case 10: ⚜ A Certain Policewoman's Crime, Part 1


Oh, Chief Yoshida.
PAT
GRIN GRIN
Good work on the plastic surgeon case.
...
Hmph.
Munakata-kun!


Oh, it doesn't matter who solved it.
He solved that one all on his own.
I didn't do anything.


There's no way he solved that case on his own.
...Well, whatever.
I agree—that Wajima is undeniably dense.
...There's something more to it.
...
Detectives don't compete for credit.

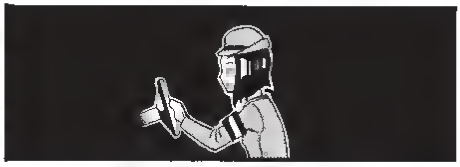
MUTTER
MUTTER
Not that... not that I'M upset about him showing me up or anything.
I'M not, okay?
MUTTER
MUTTER
?
I wonder if that has anything to do with it.
He always takes that adorable doggie to the crime scenes.
I'M most interested in solving.
That's the case
Look at this, Nanami-san!
You see all these illegally parked cars?

It's really awful, ma'am!
Yes, Kamoshida-sempai!!
We have to work hard to stop it!!
Exactly. Illegal parking causes accidents.
BEEEEE
BEEEEE
BEEEEE

He seemed like a very nice man.
VROOM
And I think he would let me keep working after we're married...
...
I've got a text.
I wonder if it's about the marriage interview I had the other day?
GASP
This is why I hate smart phones...
Ugh, this is so annoying!!
Ergh, I can't see my text!
STAGGER...
Aaaaaaaahhh!!

WHAM
LONDON 800
A-9314

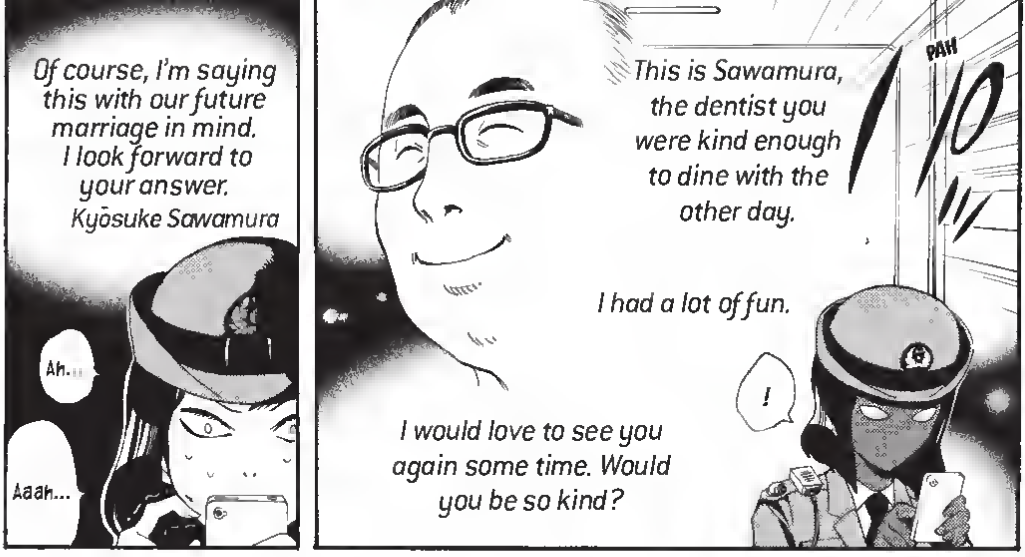
He...he's unconscious. ...Don't tell me he's...
Stay with me! Are you all right?!

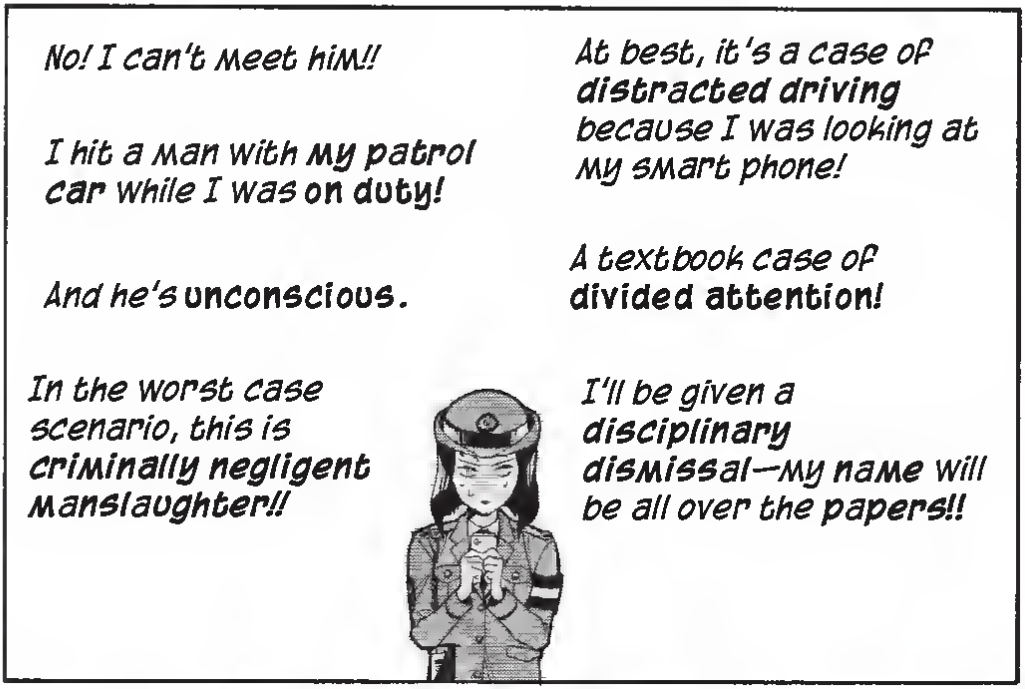


I...I HIT HIM...
I HIT A MAN... WITH A POLICE CAR...

But if he hit his head...I need to hurry...
SWIPE SWIPE

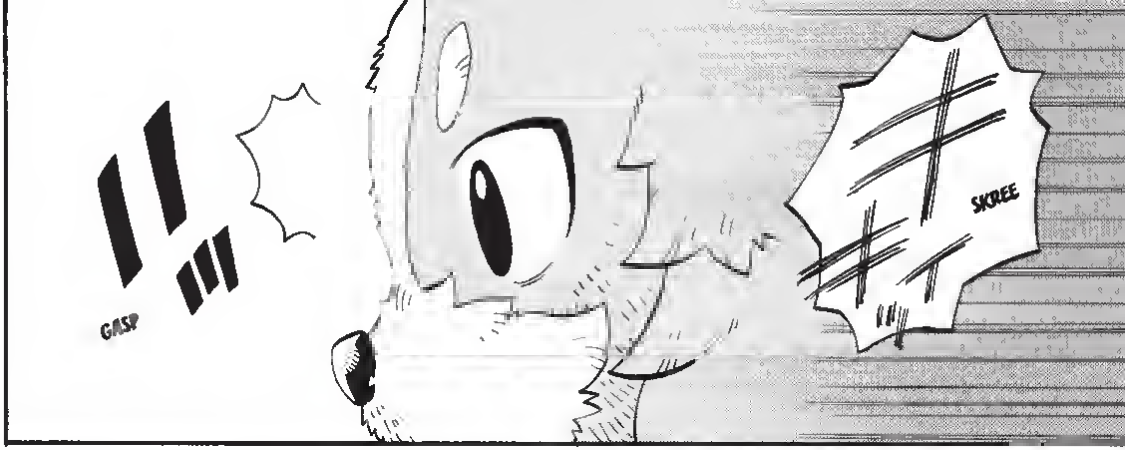
Oh good, he has a pulse!
...

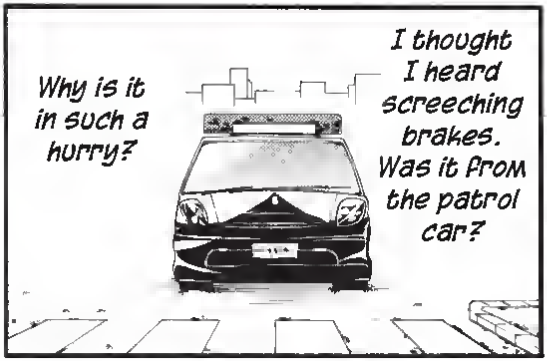

Of course, I'm saying this with our future marriage in mind. I look forward to your answer.
Kyōsuke Sawamura
Ah...
Aaah...
This is Sawamura, the dentist you were kind enough to dine with the other day.
PAH
I had a lot of fun.
I would love to see you again some time. Would you be so kind?
!


No! I can't meet him!!
I hit a man with my patrol car while I was on duty!
And he's unconscious.
In the worst case scenario, this is criminally negligent manslaughter!!
At best, it's a case of distracted driving because I was looking at my smart phone!
A textbook case of divided attention!
I'll be given a disciplinary dismissal—my name will be all over the papers!!

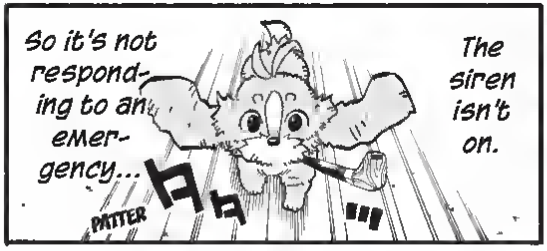
...
I have to do something...
What do I do? What can I do?

ゴロ
ROLL...
...
...
ZLRR
ズ"
ル
ズ"
ル
ZLRR
There aren't any businesses on this road.
The only cars are parked in the street.
And there are almost zero passers-by on foot or in vehicles.
I should have five or ten minutes. That's enough time to hide him.
It will take about three minutes to go around the block...
VRRR
GNN
And then...

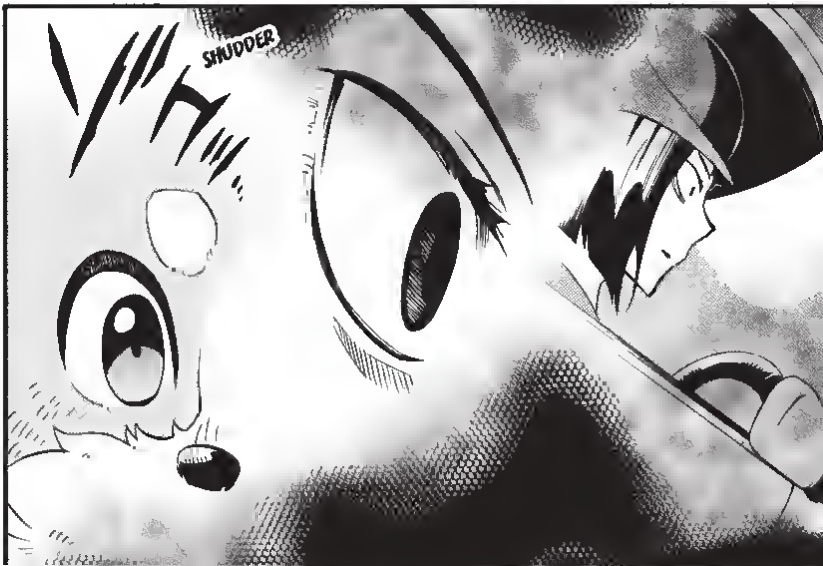

GASP
SKREE

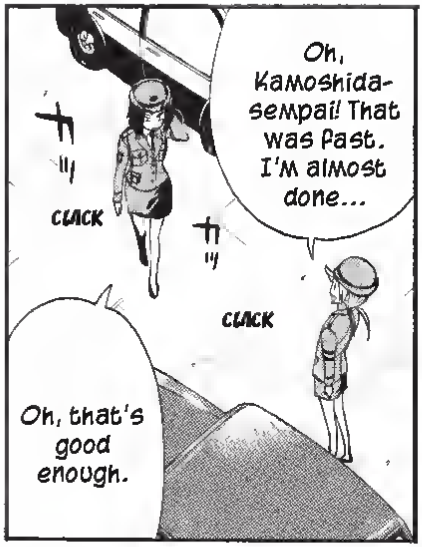

Why is it in such a hurry?
I thought I heard screeching brakes. Was it from the patrol car?

I know this place is good, but do I have to come all the way...
...
...

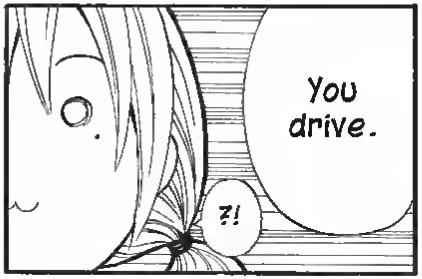

So it's not responding to an emergency...
PATTER
The siren isn't on.

...
...
VROOM...


SHUDDER


Oh, Kamoshida-sempai! That was past. I'm almost done...
CLACK
CLACK
Oh, that's good enough.

SKREE
キキ...
Nanami-san.
SHUT


You drive.
?!

We have to make proper use of you eventually!
That's exactly why you should drive!
SHOVE
SHOVE
Huh...? But I only just got my license...

Y-yes, Ma'am!
PRESS
You'll have to drive fast in an emergency!!
Step on the gas!

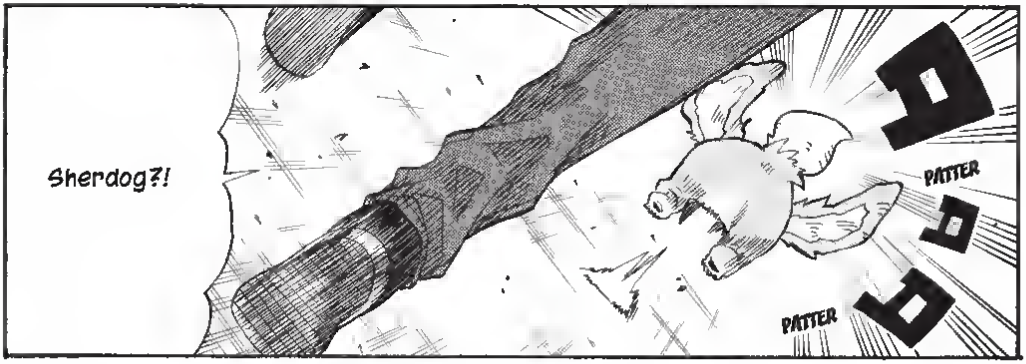
Y...yes, Ma'am...
おそる おそる
TIMID TIMID
Just do what I say, and you'll be fine.
SHUT
バタン

Yes, Ma'am!
Turn there!
VROOM...
Uh, yes, Ma'am.
It's so hot today.
Now!!
GLANCE
Yes, Ma'am!
You should be checking your mirrors about 20% of the time you're driving.
Are you using your rearview mirror?

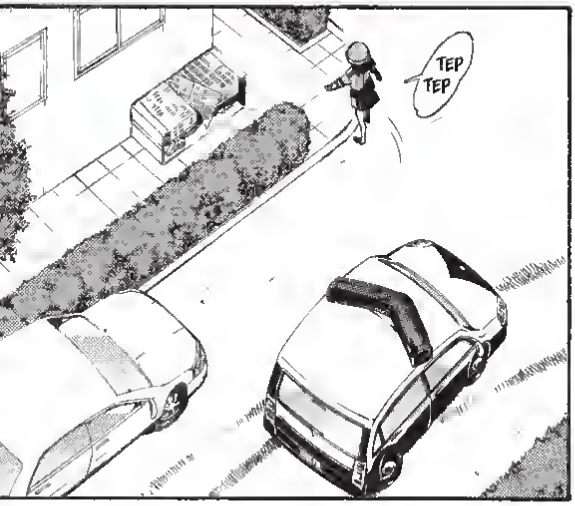
Stop! Hit the brakes!!
Huh? Eek...!
What was that...?
SMIRK...
...
TGG
Wha...
GAN
THUMP

TMP
Huh? Yeah, it sounded like someone slamming their brakes...
Did you hear that?

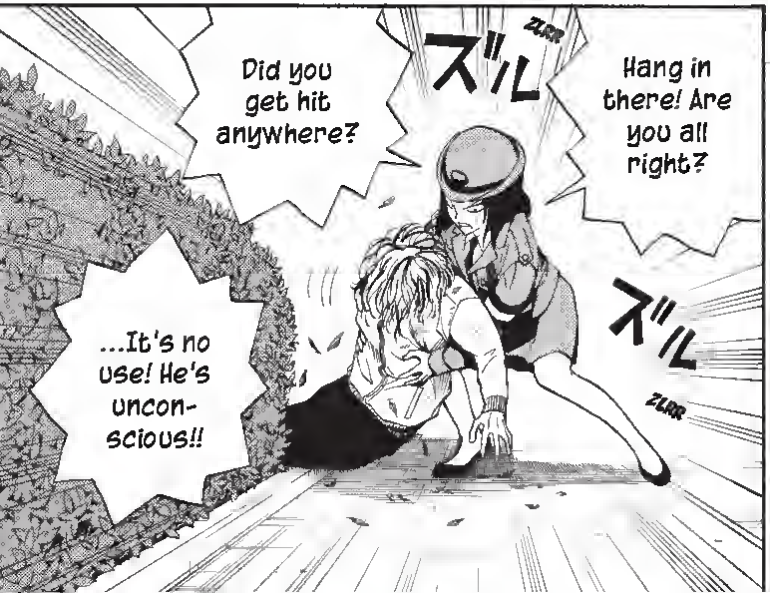
Let's go, Watson!
Huh...? H-hold on...


Sherdog?!
PATTER
PATTER

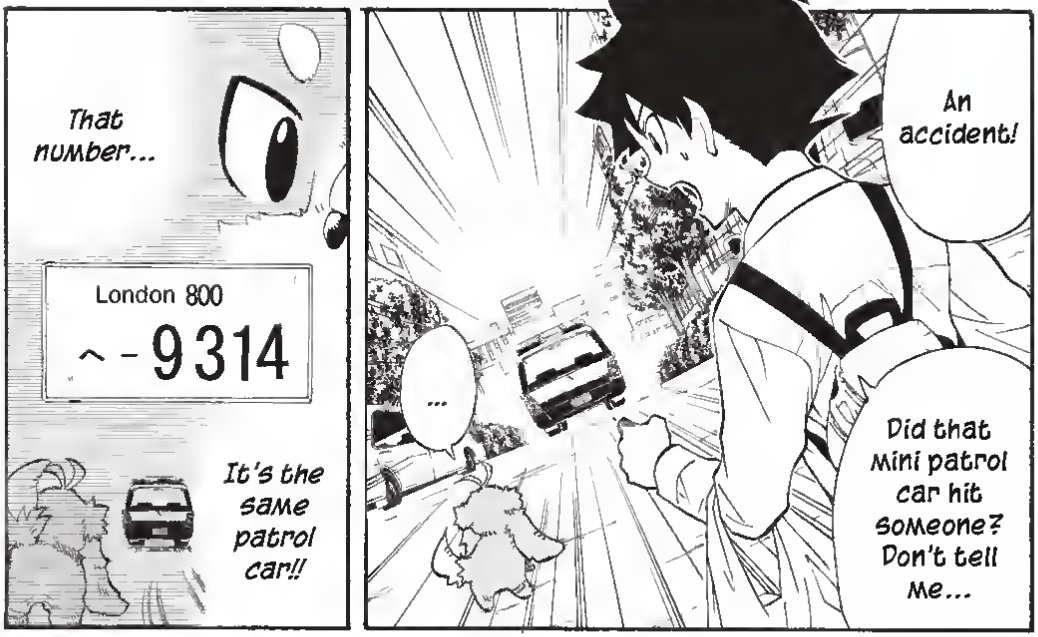
...There was a thump... wasn't there?
Yes... Someone jumped out.
You stay in the car.


TEP TEP

THP
D-DID I H...HIT... HIT...
Just stay here!!

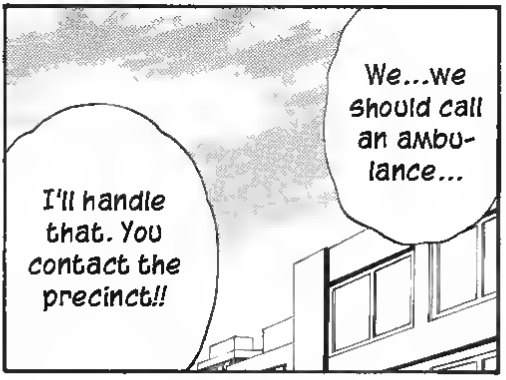

ZLRR
Did you get hit anywhere?
Hang in there! Are you all right?
...It's no use! He's uncon-scious!!
ZLRR

BAM


That number...
London 800
~-9314
It's the same patrol car!!
An accident!
...
Did that mini patrol car hit someone? Don't tell me...

Is...is he...dead, Kamoshi-da-sem-pai?
It's all right. He's not dead.

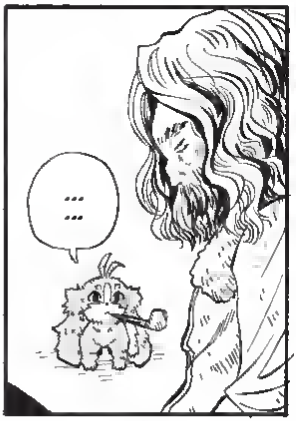
What hap-pened?

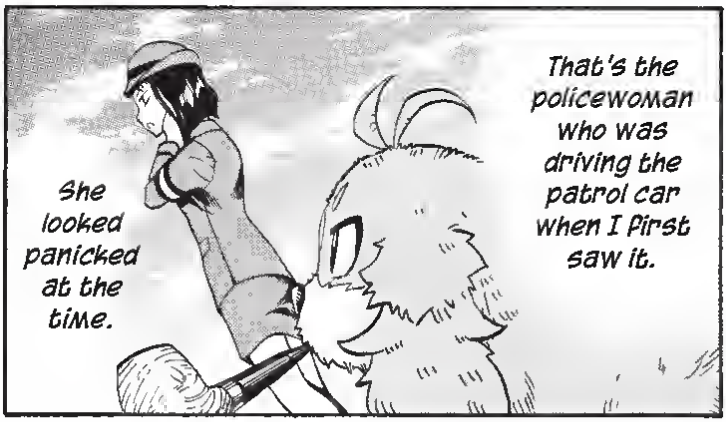

We...we should call an ambu-lance...
I'll handle that. You contact the precinct!!

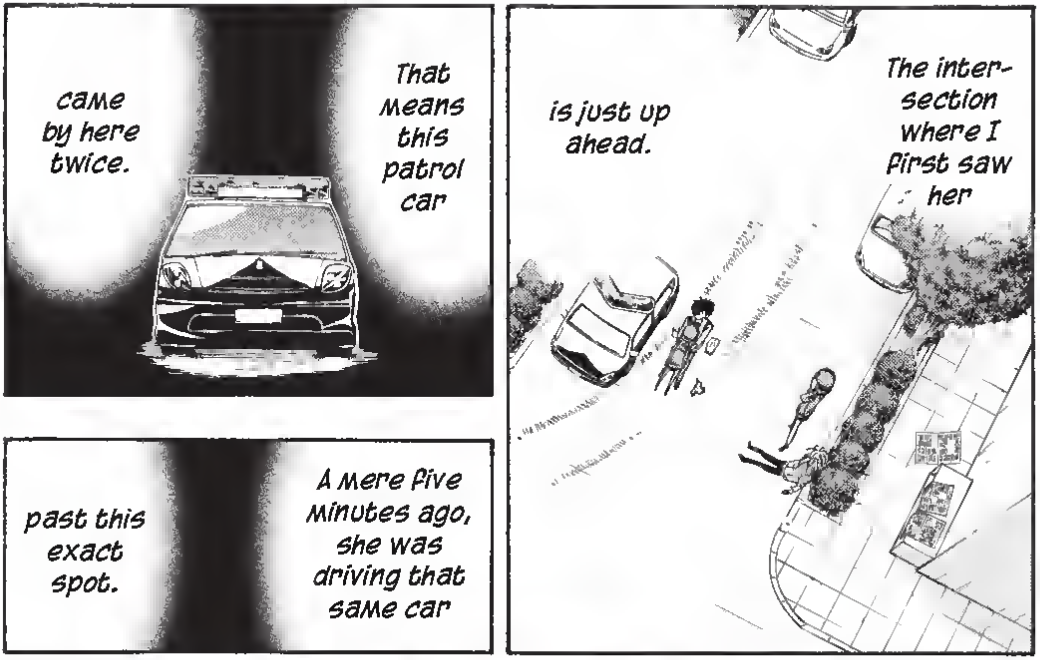
Wajima-kun!!
N-Nanami?!
Don't tell me you hit somebody?!

Calm down, and pull yourself together! Tell me exactly what happened.
...
Yes, we're at...

sob
I hit someone...
Wajima-kun... I...

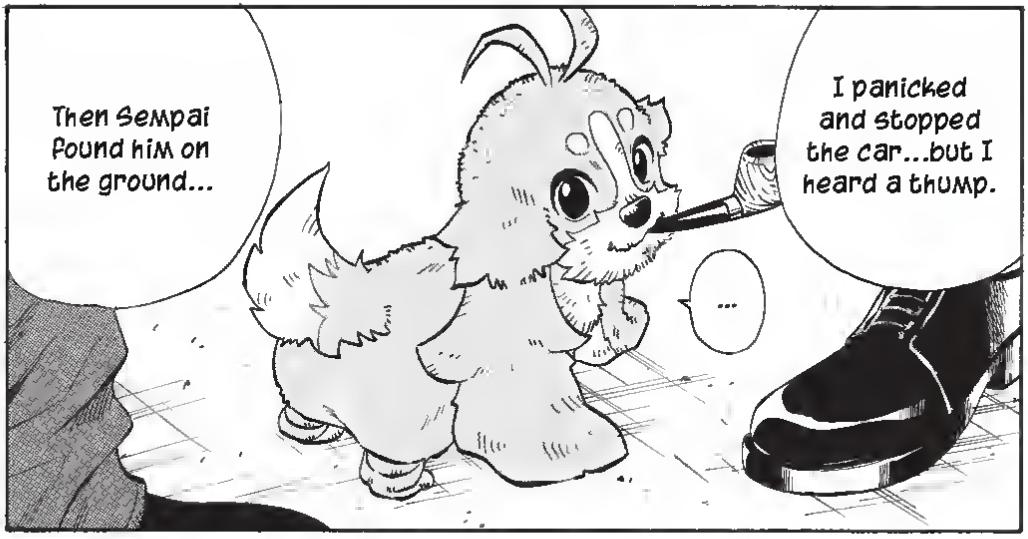

...
...


She looked panicked at the time.
That's the policewoman who was driving the patrol car when I first saw it.

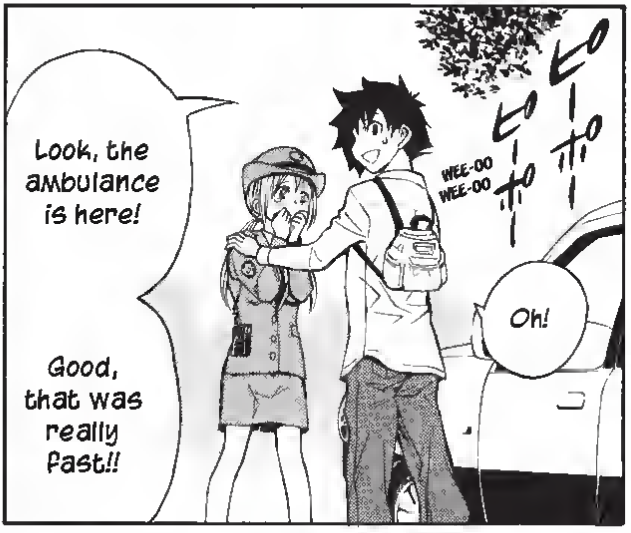

That means this patrol car
came by here twice.
The intersection where I first saw her
is just up ahead.
A mere five minutes ago, she was driving that same car
past this exact spot.

And with a singularly
wan expression...

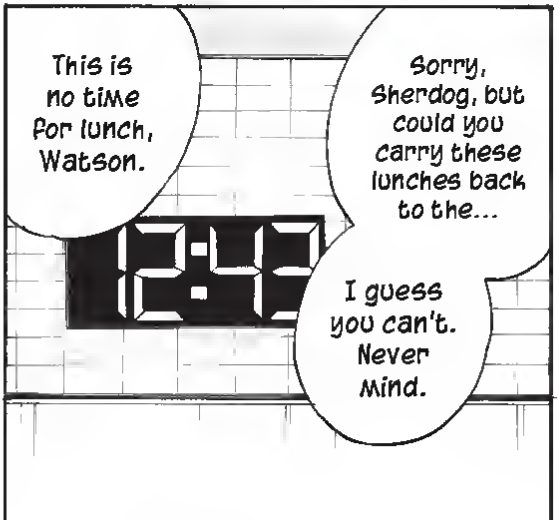
How could I be so stupid...? Kamoshida-sempai told me to check my rearview mirrors.
I looked away for less than a second... then Sempai told me to hit the brakes...


Then Sempai found him on the ground...
I panicked and stopped the car...but I heard a thump.
...

...

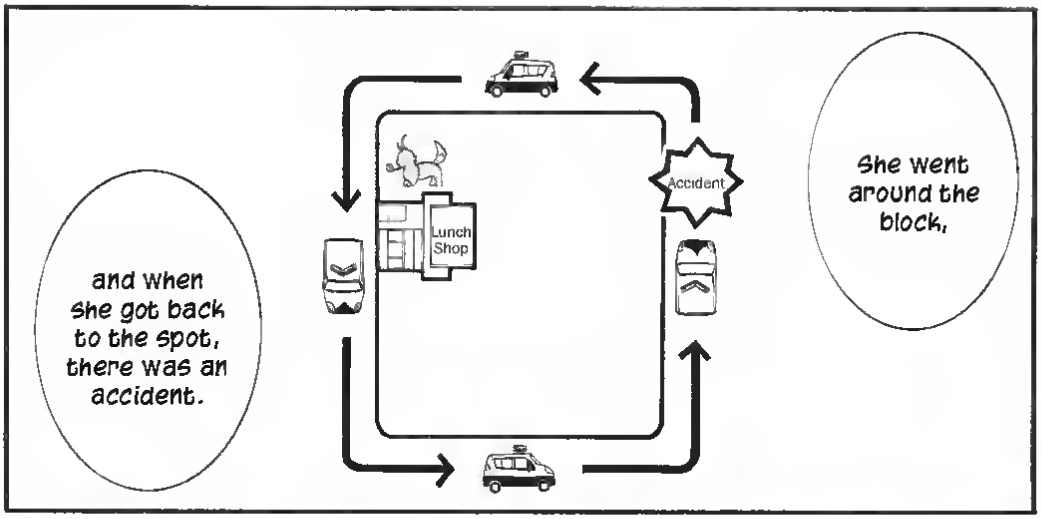

Look, the ambulance is here!
Good, that was really fast!!
WEE-OO WEE-OO
Oh!

There's something unnatural about this case.
Huh?


This is no time for lunch, Watson.
Sorry, Sherdog, but could you carry these lunches back to the...
I guess you can't. Never Mind.

I suspect that Miss Nanami
is not the driver who hit the man.

I suspect that Miss Nanami
is not the driver who hit the man.
Huh...? What do you mean, Sherdog?
Quite so. But I saw something.
But she's right there crying about how she hit him...
The accident didn't happen when Nanami was driving?
What?!
VROOM...
turned the corner at the intersection up ahead, and she looked rather perturbed.
No more than five minutes ago, that senior officer

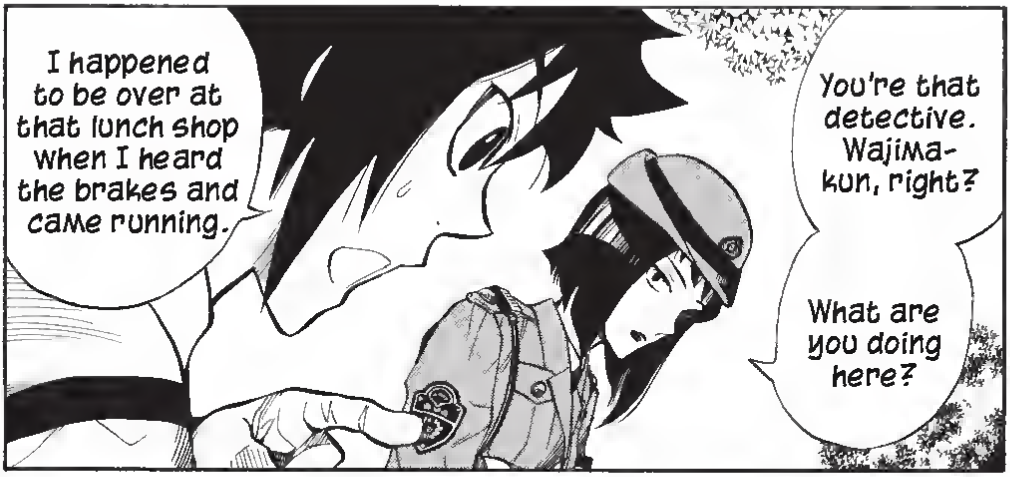

She went around the block,
Accident
Lunch Shop
and when she got back to the spot, there was an accident.

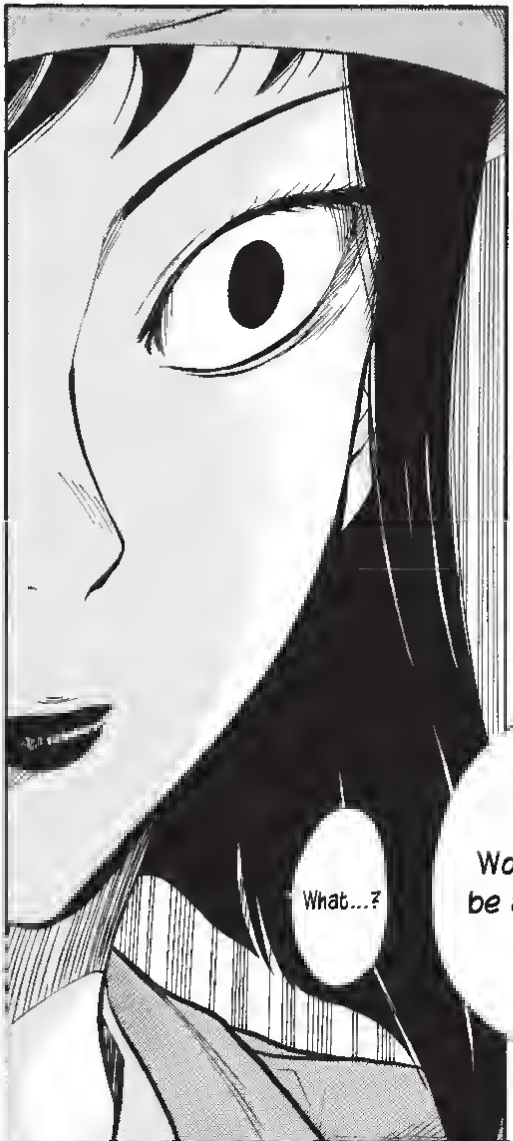
she made Miss Nanami drive—the rookie police officer
who had only just gotten her license.
Furthermore, at that time,

You're just going to have to, Watson.
...I see. You're right, that might be a little weird.
But is there any way to prove it?

!
In addition...
PSST

...All right!
Otherwise, Miss Nanami will be accused of causing injury by reckless driving!
He's unconscious, but he still has a pulse.
Is he going to be okay?
WHEW...
Kamoshida-sempai!
...
I...I'm sorry.
Please step aside— we're in a hurry!


I happened to be over at that lunch shop when I heard the brakes and came running.
You're that detective. Wajima-kun, right?
What are you doing here?

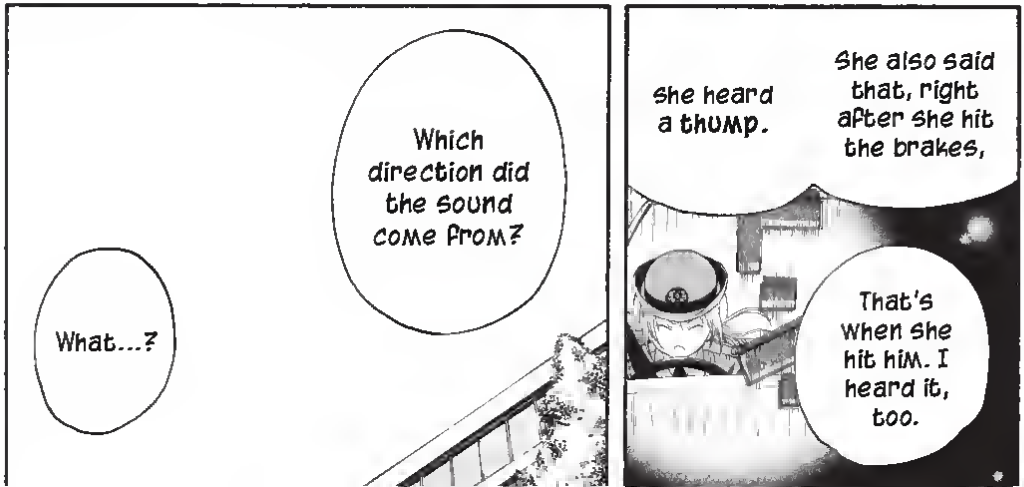

What...?

I'd like to ask you some questions, since you were a passenger in the offending vehicle.
Would that be all right?

I'll talk my way out of this.
I've come too far to turn back now.
I can handle a rookie detective like him.
No...no problem.
Ask me anything.
Good idea.
I can't say the same for myself.
My years as a police officer... My marriage prospects— they'd all go up in smoke.
But she's young—she can start over.
If I can pin this on Nanami, the worst she'll get is a disciplinary dismissal.
...
CLICK
I have more to lose!
So much more!!

According to Officer Nanami,
you told her to make sure to check the rearview mirrors just before the accident.
She looked away for a second,
and you shouted, "Stop! Hit the brakes!"
GLANCE

I advised her to check the mirrors because it's an important part of driving.
It never crossed my mind that she would take all of her focus off the road to do it...
It was careless of me.


She also said that, right after she hit the brakes,
she heard a thump.
That's when she hit him. I heard it, too.
Which direction did the sound come from?
What...?

The left... okay, let me see
?!
Who is this kid? He asks about the most minor details.
Which... direction...did it come from?
Don't tell me he suspects something...
...
...
...I think it was the left.
...No, that can't be right.
Yes, the left. I'M sure of it.
It bothers me that she had to think about it.
However,
We can determine the direction of the sound by asking Miss Nanami.
She's not likely to lie about that.
What do you think, Sherdog?

It's possible that the real impact was on the right side.
Huh? What do you mean?

Stop! Hit the brakes!
She made Miss Nanami drive in an attempt to cover it up.
She had her pass by the same spot and made it look like a different accident.
And blamed it all on her.
Is... is he... dead Kamoshida-sempai?

Can't you see, Watson?
I mean that it was Officer Kamoshida who caused the accident.

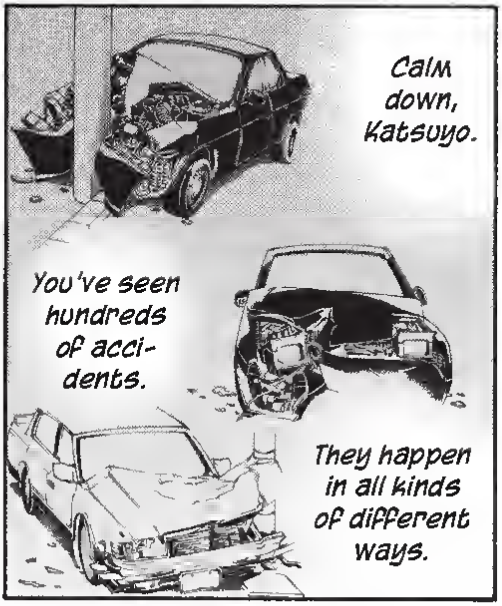
GRRR...
But when you look at it from that angle, all the pieces fits together.
Look there.
That...that's awful...

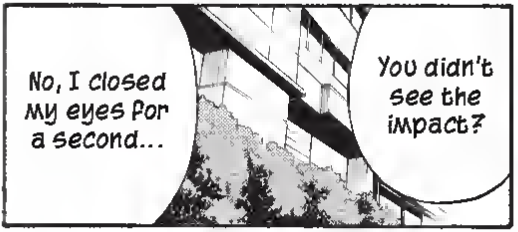
!!
There's something caught in the headlight. It looks like clothing fibers.
You're right! It's on the right side of the car!!
The victim was most likely hit by the right side of the vehicle.
The car window is wide open.
I suspect...
Exactly. Look there.
But then why did the sound come from the left?

If they analyze those fibers, they'll know they belong to the victim.
Uh-oh...
There are some clothing fibers stuck here. They probably came from the victim
!
What do you think? There doesn't seem to be a dent on the bumper.
No, but look at this.
I don't see any traces of impact on the left side of the car.
Are you sure you didn't hit him on the right?
...
...What do I do?
You shouted for Officer Nanami to stop.
...Hmm. I thought the sound came from the left...
Wasn't that because you saw him jump out?
You didn't see the car hit him?

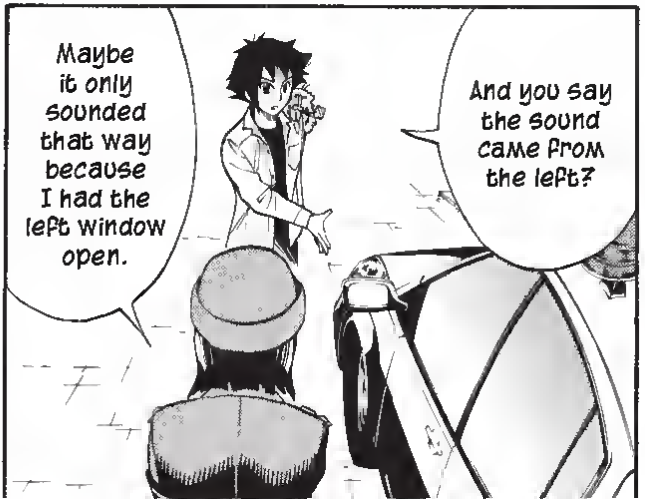
I was afraid he'd go there...
...

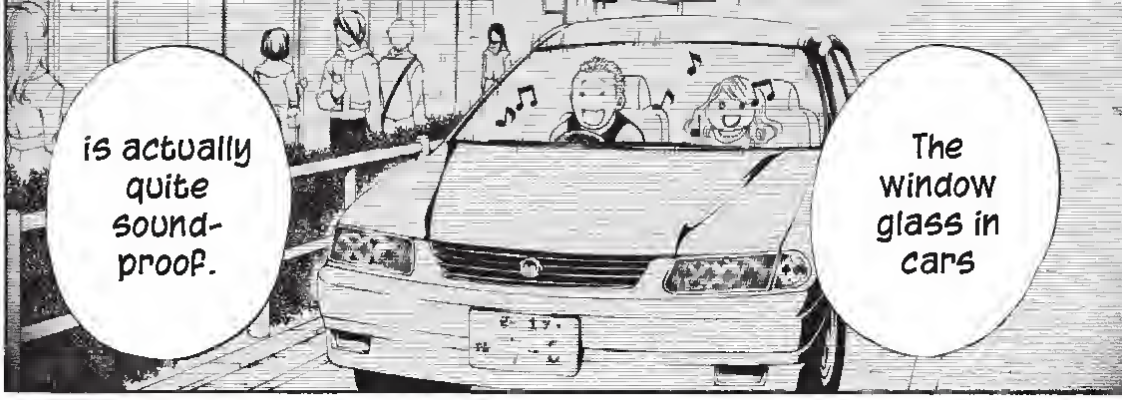
I think at the time, he was on the right.
For example...
Yes, of course I saw it.


Calm down, Katsuyo.
You've seen hundreds of accidents.
They happen in all kinds of different ways.


No, I closed my eyes for a second...
You didn't see the impact?

What?

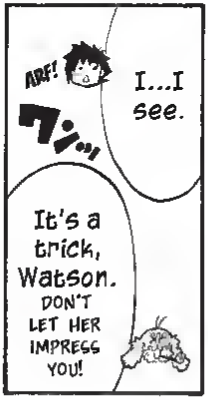

Maybe it only sounded that way because I had the left window open.
And you say the sound came from the left?


is actually quite sound-proof.
The window glass in cars

And that could have made it feel like the sound came from the left.
...
So I didn't hear the impact through the glass.
It came in through the open window on the left.

He said "I see" twice.
SMIRK...
I should be in the clear now.

I...I see!
I suspect that Officer Kamoshida...


ARF!
I...I see.
It's a trick, Watson.
DON'T LET HER IMPRESS YOU!

CLACK
Well, you had better report to the precinct.
You can let me inspect the scene.
Uh...
No! If you let her do the inspection
she'll hide the evidence!
But...but I'm in the detective division.
Traffic accidents are for the traffic depart-ment...
What do I do?! What do I...
I'm trying to figure that out.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
I have it, Watson!
!!

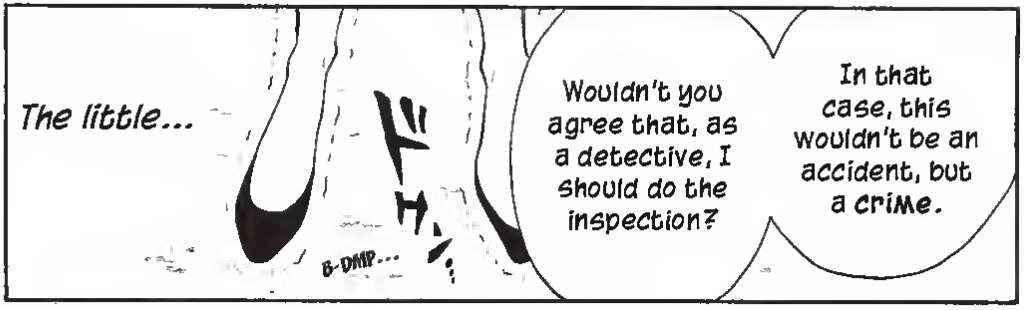
Kamoshida-sempai!
!
I think this inspection...
...better be handled by a detective.
Look here.
These tire marks.
...What are you saying?
Traffic accidents are for the traffic department.
This is out of your jurisdiction.
...
I've found evidence indicating that it's not just a traffic accident!
GASP!
That happens when you slam on the brakes.
...They're just skid marks.

But you see,
there are two sets.

So someone in a similar vehicle drove by this same spot
Both sets... happen to have a similar tire tread.
and slammed on their brakes before Officer Nanami did.

NO...
B-DMP

before Officer Nanami's car passed by.
...You see.
B-DMP...
In other words, the victim
May have been hit by someone else.
B-DMP...


The little...
B-DMP...
Wouldn't you agree that, as a detective, I should do the inspection?
In that case, this wouldn't be an accident, but a crime.

So for now...
Wait a second!
But it would look suspicious if I fought him too hard...
Does he suspect me?
If I let him investigate, he might find something else.

I saw the victim jump out.
I saw it!

That's the logical conclusion, isn't it?
caused by a similar accident that happened long before this one.
So these tire marks must have been

!
He seems homeless, and he's definitely getting on in years, so...
Maybe the same person jumped out in front of a similar car.

You can't determine the exact type of car based on skid marks.
Well? Can you deny it?
But even so,
she's piled so many testimonies on top of each other that she can't back down now.
...
I could have expected as much from a veteran policewoman.
All of her experience gives her an endless supply of excuses...
She's more formidable than I thought.
we'll force her to confess.
If we press her on the contradictions,

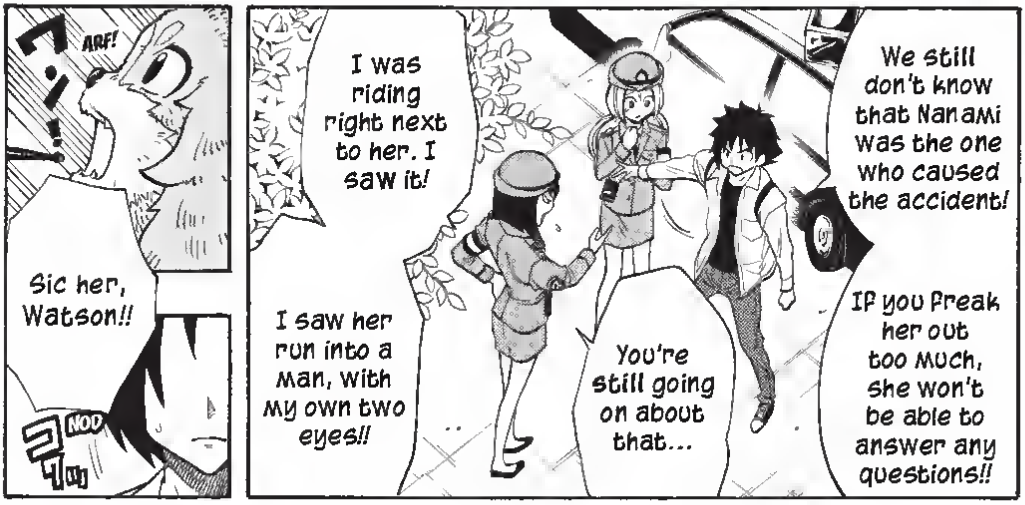
I have an ace up my sleeve, Watson.
And
Fear not! Press forward!
NOD

Man, I'm starving.
What is Wajima doing...?
KLAKKA
KLAKKA
KLAKKA
KLAKKA
WAIO
...
Maybe he got wrapped up in a case.
HA HA HA
What...? You will, Munakata?
REALLY?
I'll go find him, Sempai.

When I came running,
you were nursing the victim by those bushes there.
Yes, and?
...What you're saying makes sense, Kamoshida-sempai.
But something's not right.
Oh...? What might that be?
If he was hit on the right side of the car,
then why was he lying by the bushes on the left?

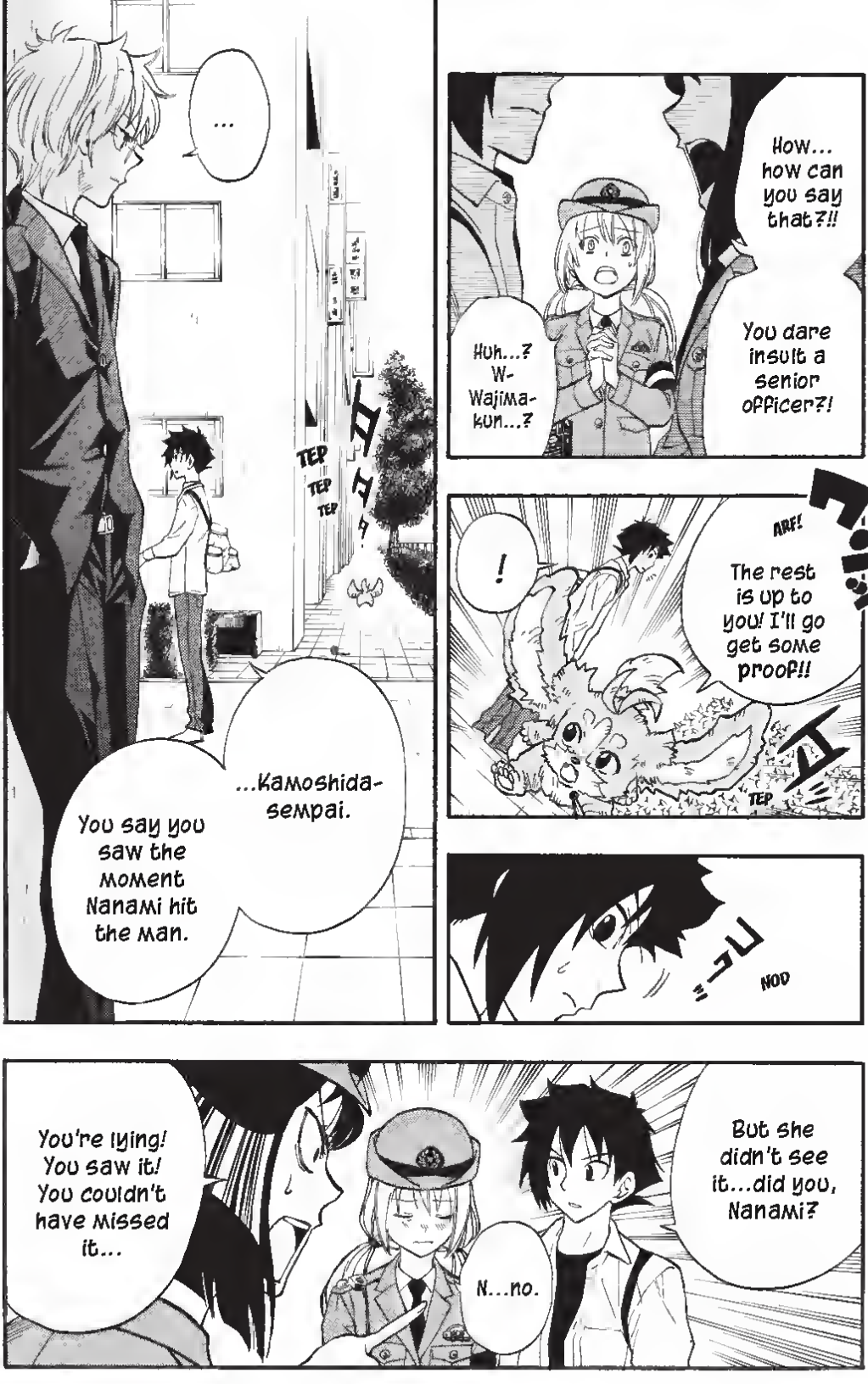
Ugh... another keen observa-tion...
It...it happens.
He tried to run across the street from the right, but he didn't make it, and got hit.
The momentum of his run sent him into the bushes on the left.
Why are you so determined that this was just an accident?
But you're just a new detective. Of course you wouldn't know that.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
It happens all the time—someone gets hit by a car and ends up somewhere you'd never expect.
...
With all my experience, I can see that there's nothing more to it.
No reason... You're just so persistent that it wasn't.
!
Nanami! Come here a sec.
They taught me at the police academy to investigate every minor lead until there's no room for doubt.

WINCE
I...I'm sorr...
Wait a second!!
Nanami-san, why are you just standing there staring?
You caused an accident!
...Don't worry. She thinks she hit the man.
I just need to keep the pressure on her...


ARF!
Sic her, Watson!!
NOD
I was riding right next to her. I saw it!
I saw her run into a man, with my own two eyes!!
You're still going on about that...
We still don't know that Nanami was the one who caused the accident!
If you freak her out too much, she won't be able to answer any questions!!

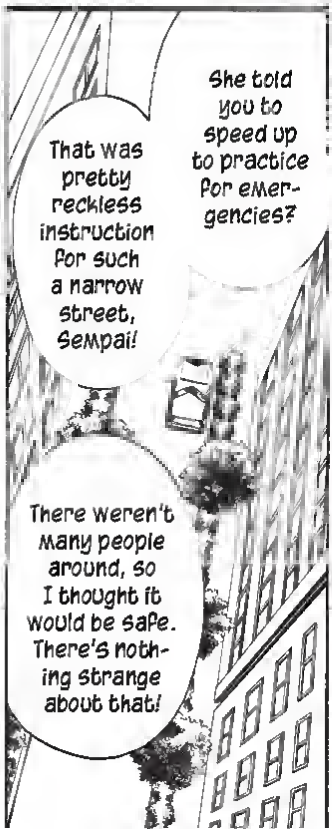
Wh... What?!
And I'm saying that I don't trust your testimony!

To put it bluntly,
Kamoshida-sempai.
!!
I think
you hit him.

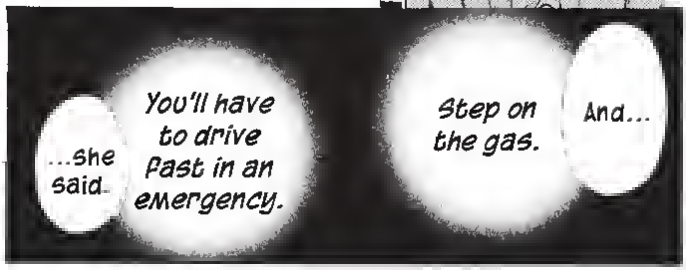

...
TEP
TEP
TEP
...Kamoshida-sempai.
You say you saw the moment Nanami hit the man.
How... how can you say that?!!
You dare insult a senior officer?!
Huh...? W-Wajima-kun...?
!
ARF!
The rest is up to you! I'll go get some proof!!
TEP
NOD
But she didn't see it...did you, Nanami?
N...no.
You're lying! You saw it! You couldn't have missed it...

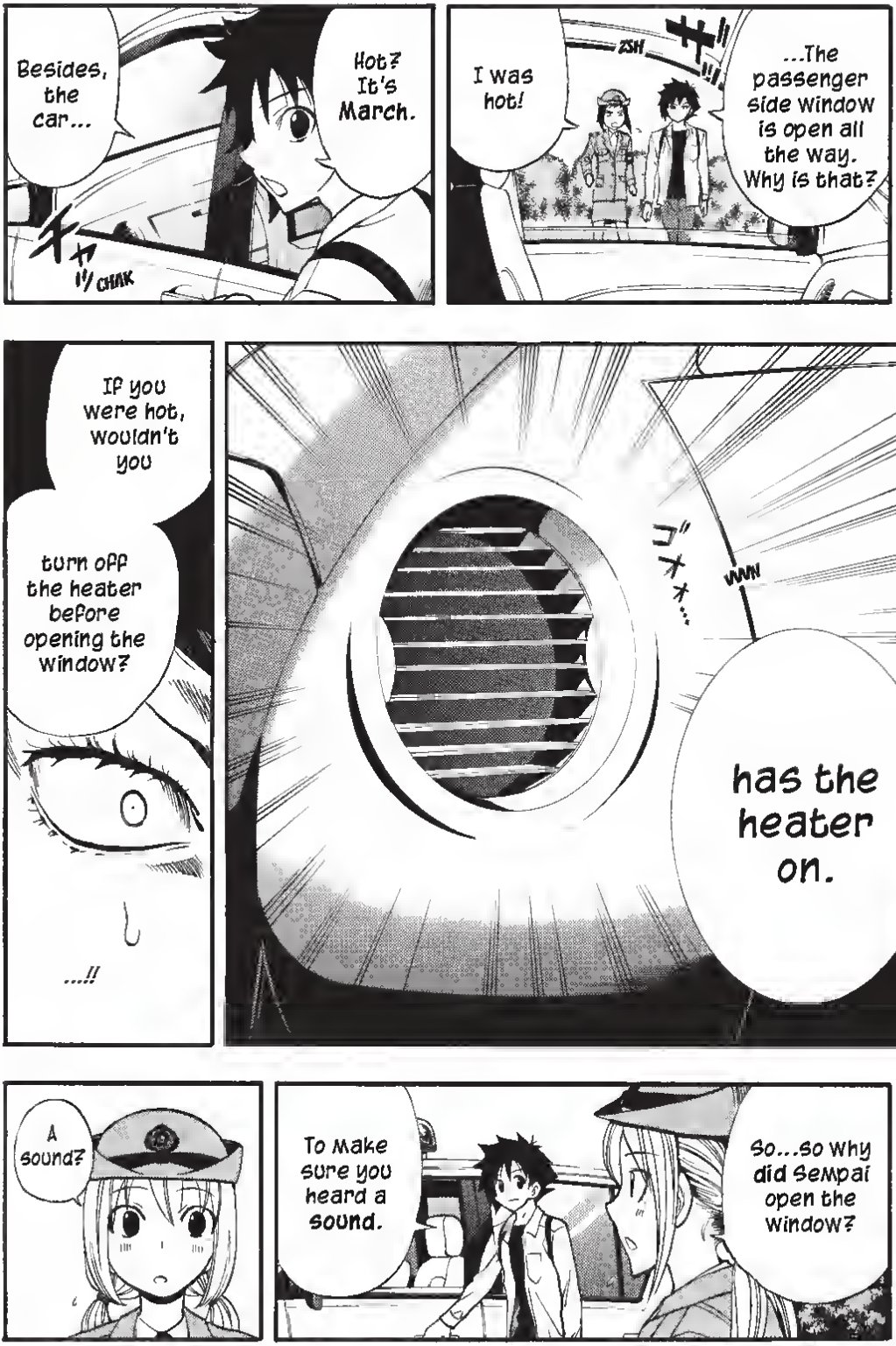
...!!
I did not see when the car hit the man!!
The second I looked away from the road, you shouted at me to hit the brakes, so I stopped the car!
I didn't see it!!
You told me to check the rearview mirrors!

You had only just gotten your license.
...Why were you driving in the first place?


That was pretty reckless instruction for such a narrow street, Sempai!
She told you to speed up to practice for emergencies?
There weren't many people around, so I thought it would be safe. There's nothing strange about that!

Then she came back...
I...was giving out parking tickets, like Kamoshida-sempai told me to.
We have to make proper use of you eventually!


...she said.
You'll have to drive fast in an emergency.
Step on the gas.
And...


Besides, the car...
Hot? It's March.
CHAK
I was hot!
...The passenger side window is open all the way. Why is that?
If you were hot, wouldn't you
turn off the heater before opening the window?
...!!
ゴオオ...
has the heater on.
A sound?
To make sure you heard a sound.
So...so why did Sempai open the window?

took you off ticket duty,
and made you drive down this street.
I suspect Kamoshida-sempai came through this street earlier.
That's when she hit the elderly man.
she went around the block...
Then, to pin the crime on you,
...That was her chance.
Next...When you got to where the victim was hidden...
she made you slam on the brakes.
and at that moment,
She distracted you by telling you to check the mirrors...

She put her hand out of the open window,
and hit the car as hard as she could, right in time with the brakes,
creating the illusion that you had hit something.
BAM
It was so sudden, you closed your eyes...
...
So the sound was enough to make you think there had been an accident.

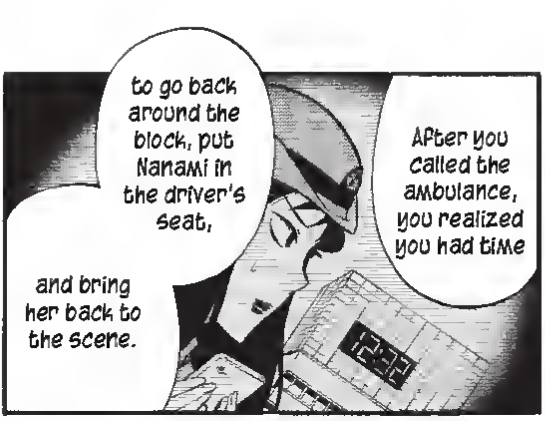
Of course she did.
Y...yes. She told me to stay inside...
After that, Kamoshida-sempai
jumped out of the car. ...Am I right?
Sempai ran over to the hiding place,
and rushed to drag the old man out of the shadows...
Putting on an act, as if the accident had only just occurred.
If you had jumped out of the car, too, her performance would have been impossible.
Proof...?
What proof do you have that I...
Stop making up stories!!
N...no, it's not what you think!!

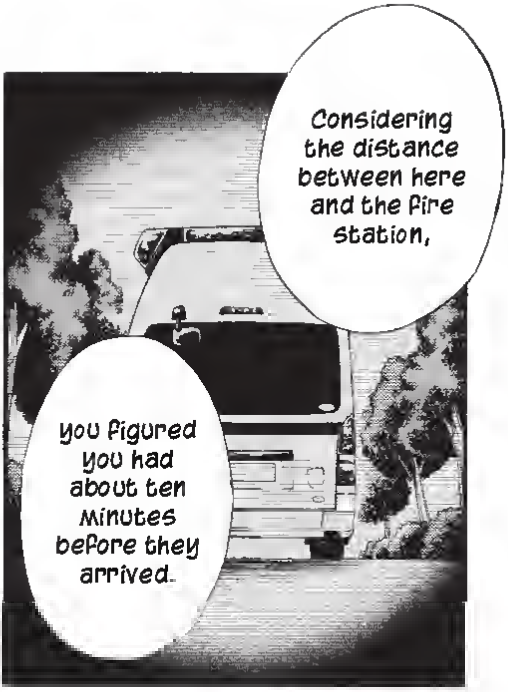
...!!
I have proof...
Arf!!
TEP
TEP
!!!
MM
Parking Violation
right here!
(Ticket No) ∎∎ - ∎∎∎∎ - ∎∎ - ∎∎∎∎ ∎
(Registration (Car) No) ××××
User Mr /Ms
Parking Violation
Please move your vehicle immediately
This vehicle has been parked illegally
The driver of this vehicle may be subjected to a fine
payable to London Public Safety Commission
Further, this ticket is void if the driver of the vehicle pays the
fine within 30 days of receiving this ticket, or in the case that
said driver is tried in a family court.
London Town _____ Precinc
Issued by:
Phone number:
Date/Time
03/05/2012, 12:32pm
violation identified at 12:29pm
Baker Building, London
A parking ticket?
How would that prove anything?!!

I finally got them to answer my questions when I said I was a journalist in training.
The call was made...
Thanks, Miki!
CLICK
That isn't all.
CHAK
Hello? It's me... How are things on your end?
But if Nanami really was the one who caused the accident...
You couldn't possibly have called the ambulance at that time.
!!
You called at 12:32.
I had a journalist friend of mine
Find out when a 119 call was placed in your name.
...

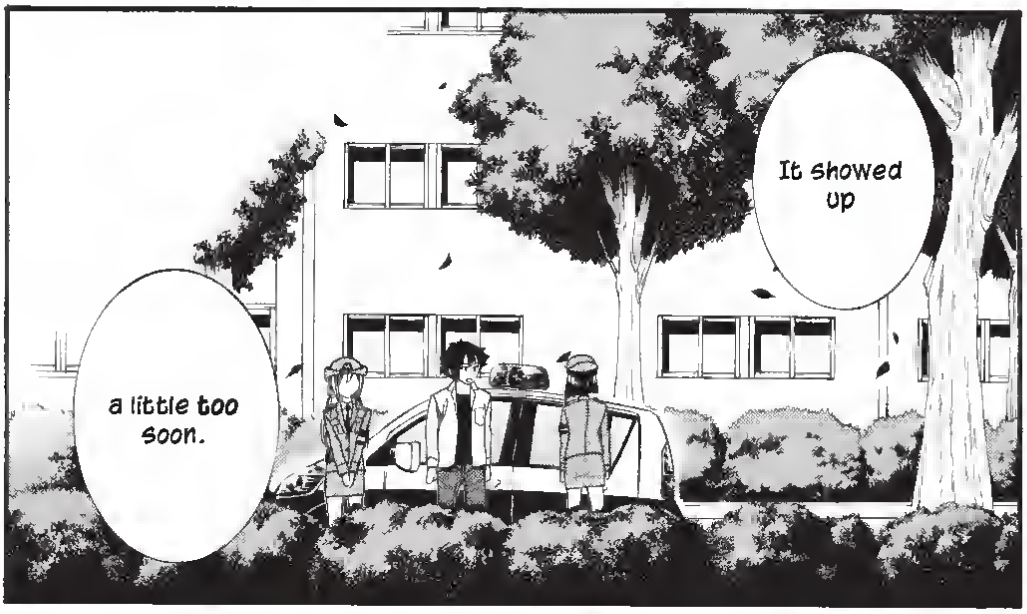
Because during that time, Nanami
(Ticket No.)
(Registration (Car) No.)
User: Mr./Ms.
king Violation
move your vehicle immediately
cle has been parked illegally
is vehicle may be subjected to a fine
don Public Safety Commission
et is void if the driver of the vehicle pays the fine within 30 days of receiving this ticket, or in the case that said driver is tried in a family court
London Town ____ Precinct
Issued by Akane Narumi
Phone number: ssss
Violat
Date/Time
03/05/2012, 12:32pm
violation identified at 12:29pm
Place
Baker Building, London
Condition
Left unattended (ina no parking zone, etc.)
Left unattended on the wrong side of the road (longer than 3min./in pedestrian walkway)
DP placard
was still writing up parking tickets!
Violati
Date/Time
03/05/2012, 12:32pm
violation identified at 12:29pm
Place
Baker Building, London
Condition
Left unattended (in a no parking zone, etc.)
Left unattended on the wrong side of the
(longer than 3min./in pedestrian walkw
No DP placard

Why would you call 119
if there hadn't been an accident yet?
...
...!!
...After you caused the accident,
you hid the victim in the bushes, and then
called an ambulance.


to go back around the block, put Nanami in the driver's seat,
and bring her back to the scene.
After you called the ambulance, you realized you had time


Considering the distance between here and the fire station,
you figured you had about ten minutes before they arrived.

But...
WEE OO
And in fact, the ambulance showed up five minutes later.


It showed up
a little too soon.

All right, that's enough.
SIGH...
...

Something... just came over me.
Forgive me.
I admit it.
I'm sorry, Nanami-san.
Kamoshida-sempai...
Let's go, Wajima-kun. ...I'll turn myself in.
Kamoshida-sempai! You don't have to tell them everything. Just that there was an accident...

Nanami-san, I caused an accident and tried to cover it up.
I tried to frame you.
Those are the actions of a criminal.
I must accept my punishment.

...
Keep up the good work.
Learn from my bad example.

You'll make a fine policewoman.

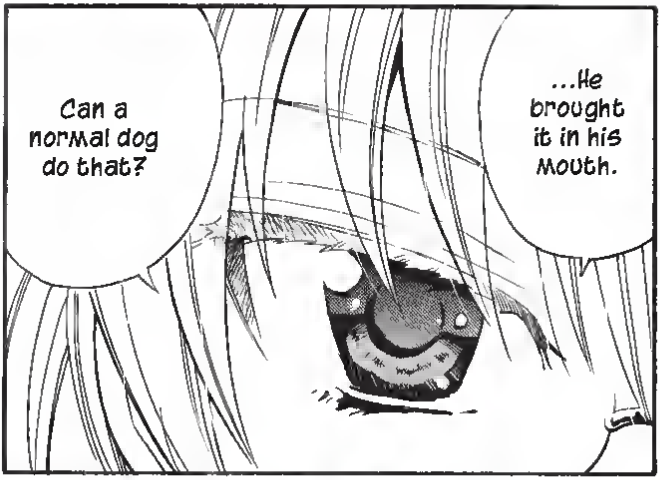
CRUNCH...
Takeru-kun.

Once you've gotten this cleaned up, can we talk?
Alone?
M... Munakata-kun...

What did you want to talk to me about?
Sorry, Munakata-kun. I didn't mean to take so long.
That was some brilliant detective work back there.
Who would have guessed that the lady police officer would turn to a life of crime?
!
Why do you take your dear little puppy everywhere you go?
Huh?
That's not normal, is it?
She had her reasons.
...You don't have to say it like that.
Incidentally...
...It doesn't matter.

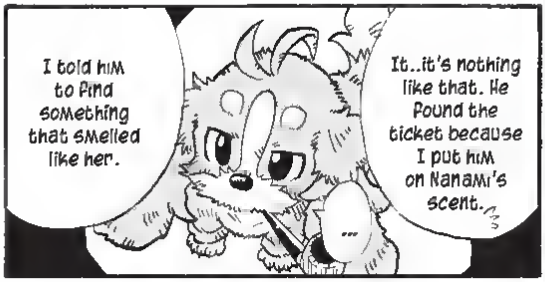
Case 11: ⚜ A Stage for Murder, Part 1

If other people find out about him,
Sherdog might turn into a normal dog—he might never come back.
I have to be careful...
Y...yeah, I'm pretty sure I could get in trouble for it.
But I can't leave him at home, so...


Can a normal dog do that?
...He brought it in his mouth.

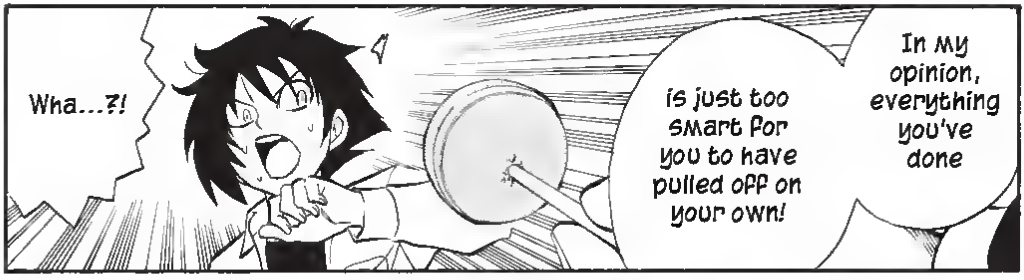
WINCE
That parking ticket.

ARF!
HOP
SS
it's after that dog barks or makes some other sound.
When I really listen, I notice that every time you make any astute observation
And not only that.


I told him to find something that smelled like her.
It...it's nothing like that. He found the ticket because I put him on Nanami's scent.
...

It's like
he's coaching you...

You see, Takeru-kun.
Oh, he's much more advanced than that.


Wha...?!
is just too smart for you to have pulled off on your own!
In my opinion, everything you've done

He is in full communi-cation with you,
and he's been helping you solve those cases!
That dog of yours
has enough brain power to be considered a genius by human standards.

This is a picture I secretly shot of you
When you were talking to your dog.
You... you were sneaking pictures?
AREN'T YOU A DETECTIVE?!
Yeah...yeah right, like something that supernatural would...
Oh no!!
Look at this.
He's like... yes.
You have to admit, there's a spark of intelligence there.
Look at the dog's eyes.
B-DMP!
He's like the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes!

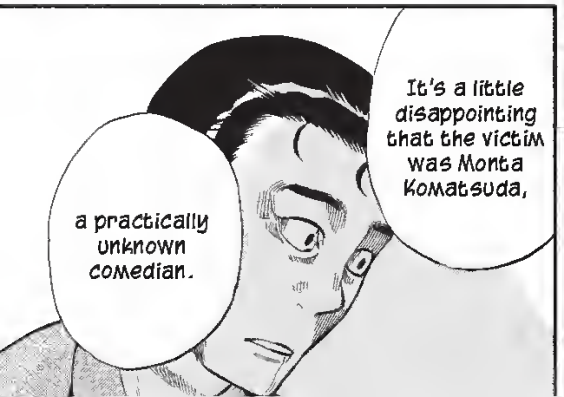
Sherdog, what...
!!
SWITCH
Tell me the truth!!
What are you doing? Give him back.
Who are you really?
WHACK
ARF!
?!
BLANK
きょと
ん
...
...
No...
SHH
N...

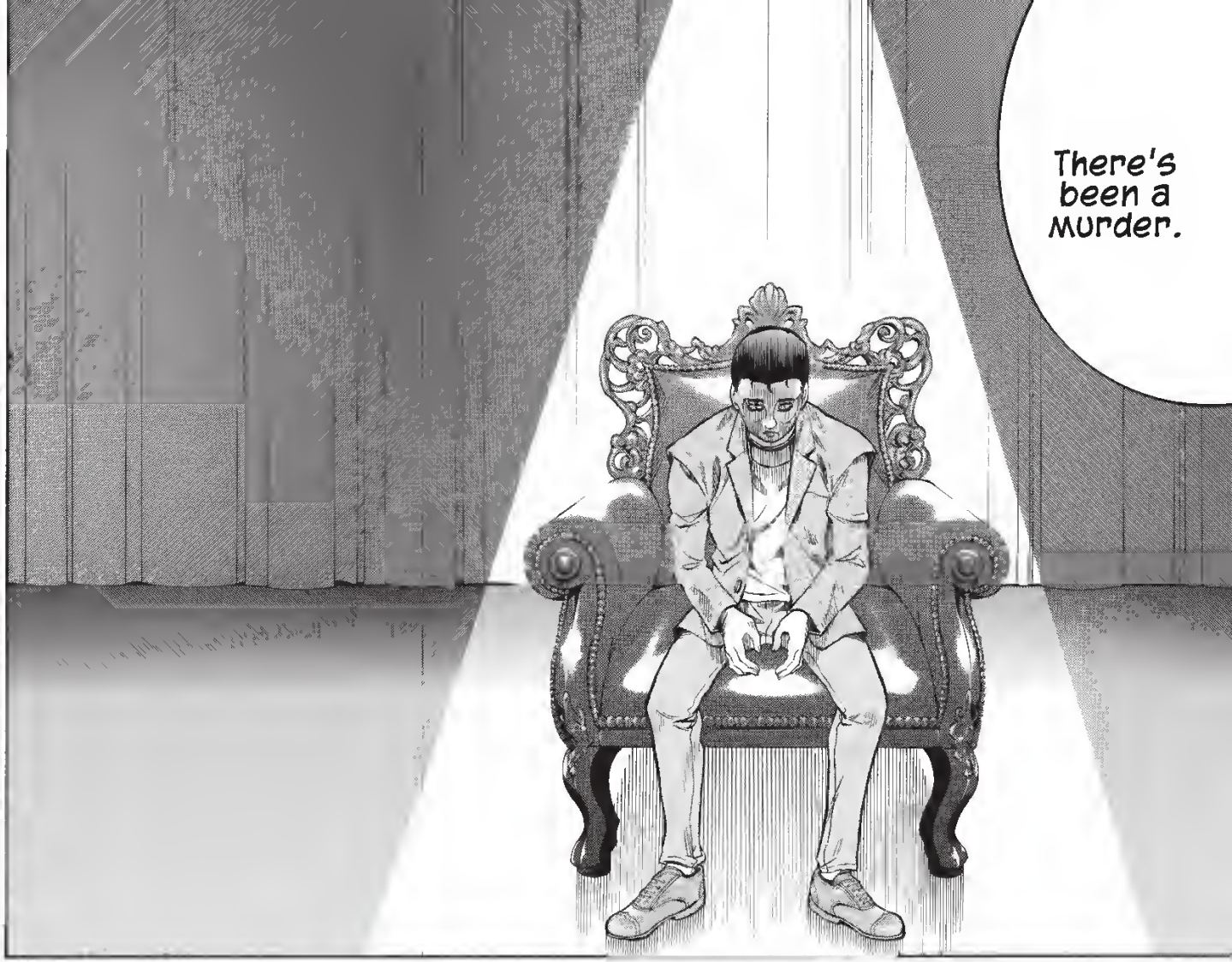
P...pew! Ugh! Blech! Blech!
S...sorry about that. He's not really house-trained.
But now you can see he's just a normal dog.
Aaaaahh!
WZZZ
!
Why... Why you!
SCRUB
SCRUB
Train your dog!
That was a pretty good per-formance.
It's safe now, Sherdog.
HEFF
HEFF
That was close...
HEFF
SHUT
Whew ...
ARF!
You were just like a real...
Like when you peed on him.

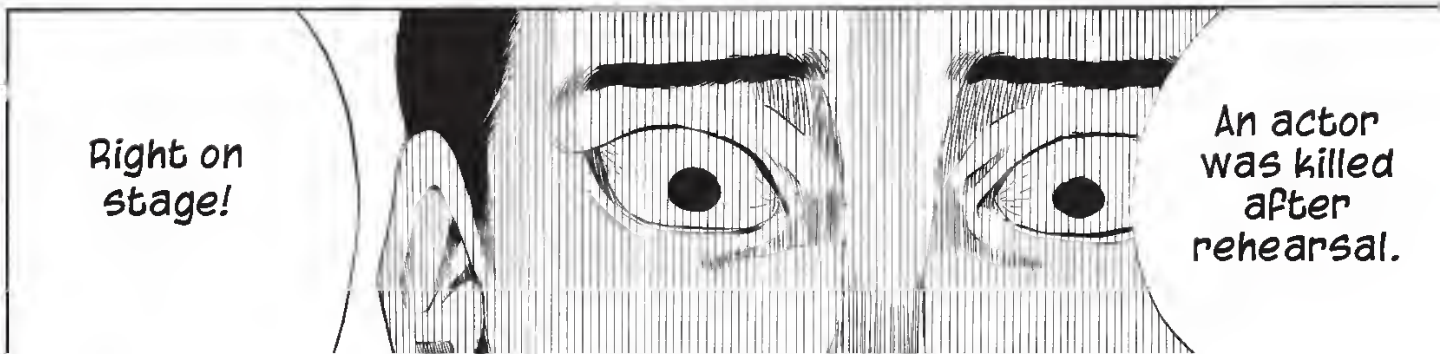
...
...
What...?
D...don't tell me.
...Not again.
HEFF HEFF HEFF
RRRING
!
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
I need you to get to the scene right away.
Where are you now, Wajima-kun?
Oh... Chief! Sorry, now's not a good...
What? The...the scene...?
Come now, do you really need to ask?
London Theater

...
A case "like this"?
This is why I became a detective!
Ooohh, I've always wanted to work a case like this!
わくわく BOUNCE BOUNCE

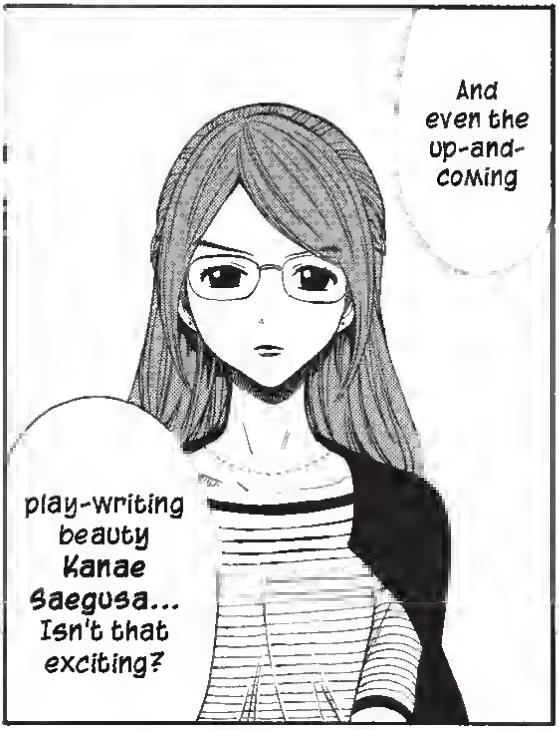
Duh. The kind of case you see in mystery movies—
a dramatic, elaborate murder with a famous victim.


It's a little disappointing that the victim was Monta Komatsuda,
a practically unknown comedian.

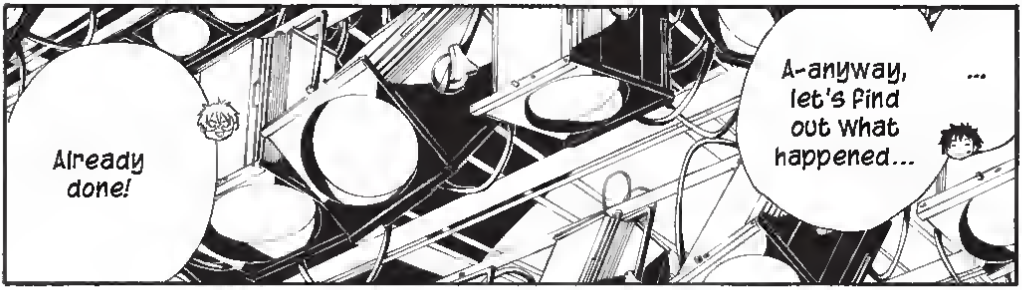

There's been a murder.


Right on stage!
An actor was killed after rehearsal.

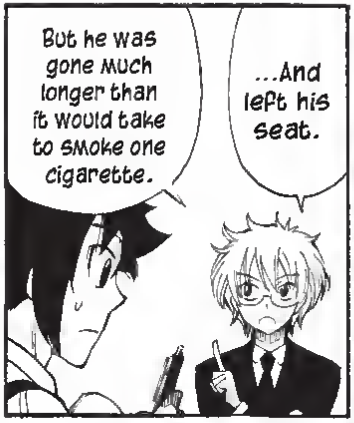
But at least the three suspects
are the famous actor
and star of the show, Kyōhei Kazamatsuri.


And even the up-and-coming
play-writing beauty Kanae Saegusa... Isn't that exciting?

The master director, Shinsaku Hyōdō,


Already done!
A-anyway, let's find out what happened...
...

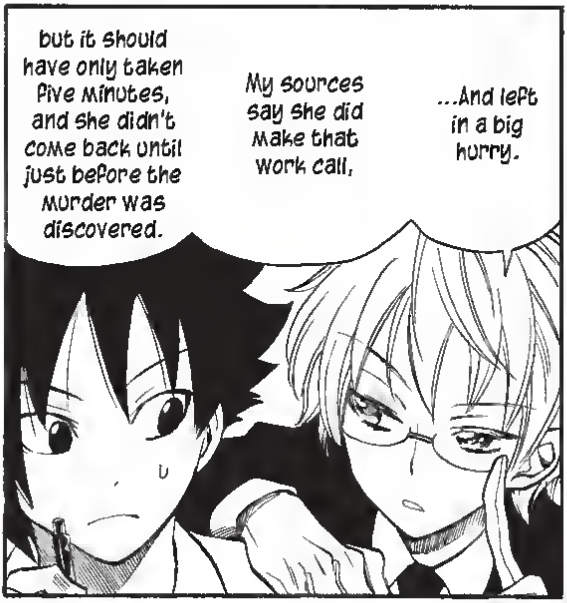
The crime happened right after rehearsal
For the mystery play, Whodunnit?
After rehearsal, everyone went back to their dressing rooms,
before heading to the pre-party venue.
Everyone was there—cast, lighting crew, sound techs...
While they were all together, the victim, Komatsuda said...
...
I'm getting a call about work. I'm going to step out.
I'll be right back.
Pre-party?
It's a cast party, only instead of after the final performance,
they have it before the show opens.
I see.


But he was gone much longer than it would take to smoke one cigarette.
...And left his seat.

Immediately after that, Director Hyōdō said...
I'm going out for a smoke.

But witnesses say that he hadn't drunk very much...
...And left the party.

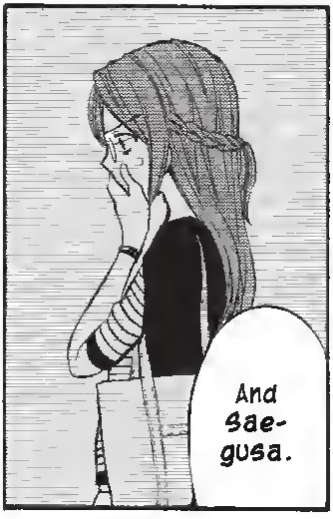
Then the star, Kazamatsuri, said...
I've had a little too much to drink. I'm going to get some air.


but it should have only taken five minutes, and she didn't come back until just before the murder was discovered.
My sources say she did make that work call,
...And left in a big hurry.

Finally, the playwright, Saegusa said...
Oh no...! I forgot to make a work call.

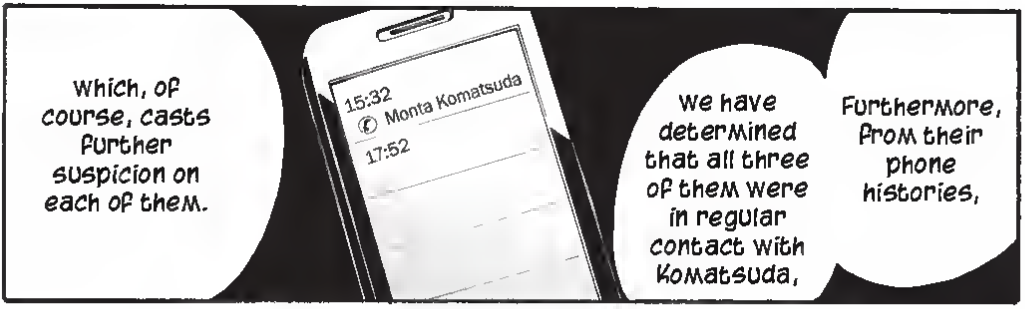
Hey, Kamatsuda, wake up! We're taking a cammemarative phata!
You can't sleep in the middle af the stage like that...
At the end of the party, everyone went to the stage to take a commemorative photo, and...
Oh! Kamatta-chan's passed aut drunk aver here.
あはははは
AH HA HA HA HA
Manta Kamatsuda, in a manster cama.
WAKE HIM UP, KAZAMATSURI-KUN
FLOP
AAAHHHH
Aaaaahhhh! Komatsu-daaaaa!

The cause of death
was strangulation by a cord around his neck.
Because it takes at least five minutes to suffocate someone...


And Saegusa.

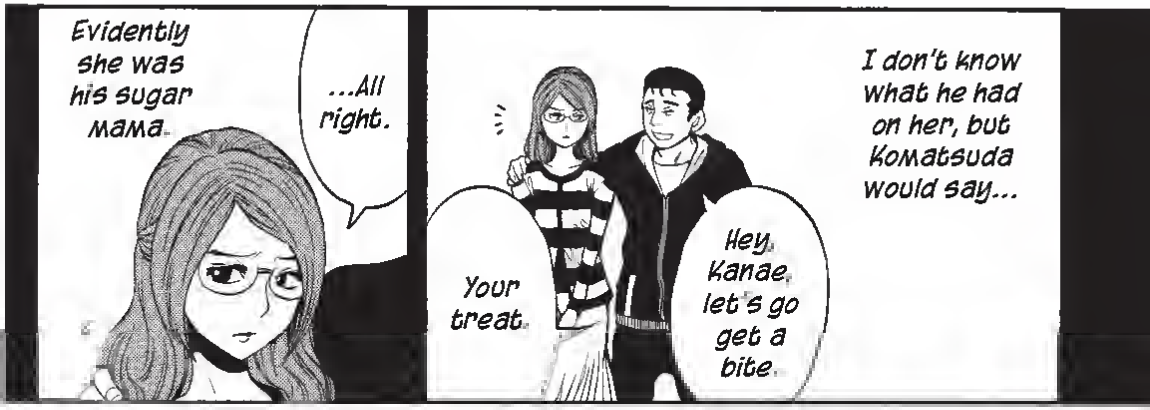
Hyōdō.

...We've narrowed the list of suspects to the ones who had disappeared for that amount of time.
Kazamatsuri.


Which, of course, casts further suspicion on each of them.
15:32
Monta Komatsuda
17:52
We have determined that all three of them were in regular contact with Komatsuda,
Furthermore, from their phone histories,

He tried to take him out of the show multiple times.
He was constantly annoyed with Komatsuda's amateurish performance.
But someone was pressuring him into keeping him on.
And the motive?
I'll start with Hyōdō.
No...I'd rather he died.
I'd rather die than let that amateur ruin it all.
I'm staking my whole life on this play.
It's possible that Kazamatsuri was the one
He had such a bizarrely high opinion of Komatsuda,
indirectly putting the squeeze on Hyōdō...
it sparked rumors that the comedian had some dirt on him.
...He let that little gem slip during a night out drinking.
Next, the star, Kyōhei Kazamatsuri.

What?!
And the rumor is...he forced her.
Apparently she and Komatsuda were sleeping together during rehearsals.
As for the playwright, Kanae Saegusa.


Evidently she was his sugar mama.
...All right.
Your treat.
Hey, Kanae, let's go get a bite.
I don't know what he had on her, but Komatsuda would say...

...
Okay, this is bad.

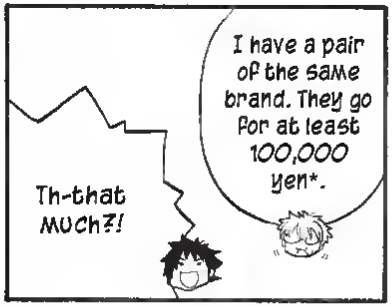
That's about the size of it.
...So apparently there's nothing good to say about this guy.

Isn't this where you look at the body and the suspects and make some brilliant observation?
What's the matter, Takeru-kun?
But he's just a normal puppy now...
?
Usually, this is where Sherdog tells me exactly who did it.
WHIMPER...
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
?!
HM?
That's...odd. Takeru-kun is acting like a dog now!!
I'll start by imitating Sherdog!!
CRAWL
CRAWL
I'll inspect every inch of the victim's body!!
CRAWL

That shoe...

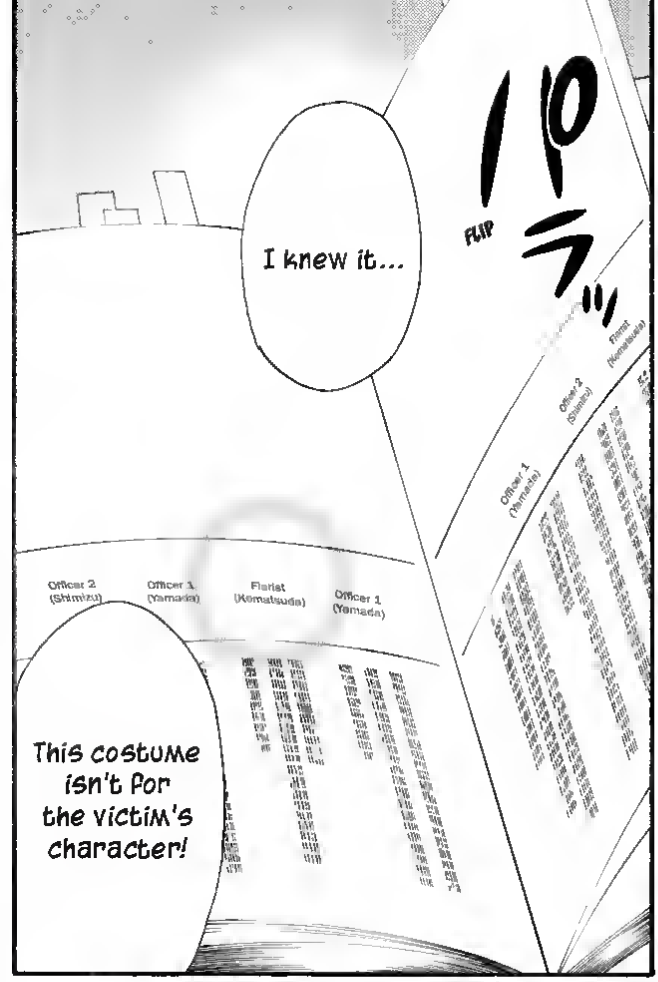
Maybe he made Kanae Saegusa buy them?
Isn't that weird? He's a nameless, unsuccessful comedian who has to make his woman buy his meals.
Wearing such expensive shoes...

It's really loose.
Oh, that's Italian.


I have a pair of the same brand. They go for at least 100,000 yen*.
Th-that much?!

*About $1,000

No, based on how she's dressed,
I doubt she has that much money, either.
...
Huh?
Here's the proof—all his clothes are high-end...
Yeah, but hey, if he had dirt on her,
Maybe he forced her to buy expensive clothes for him, even if she had to keep wearing cheap stuff herself.
What?!
COSTUME RENTAL
YAMADA
This is a costume.


I knew it...
FLIP
Officer 2 (Shimizu)
Officer 1 (Yamada)
Florist (Komatsuda)
Officer 1 (Yamada)
This costume isn't for the victim's character!

That's weird. Rehearsal was over, and he'd already gone to the party.
Why would he still be in costume?
Hmmm.

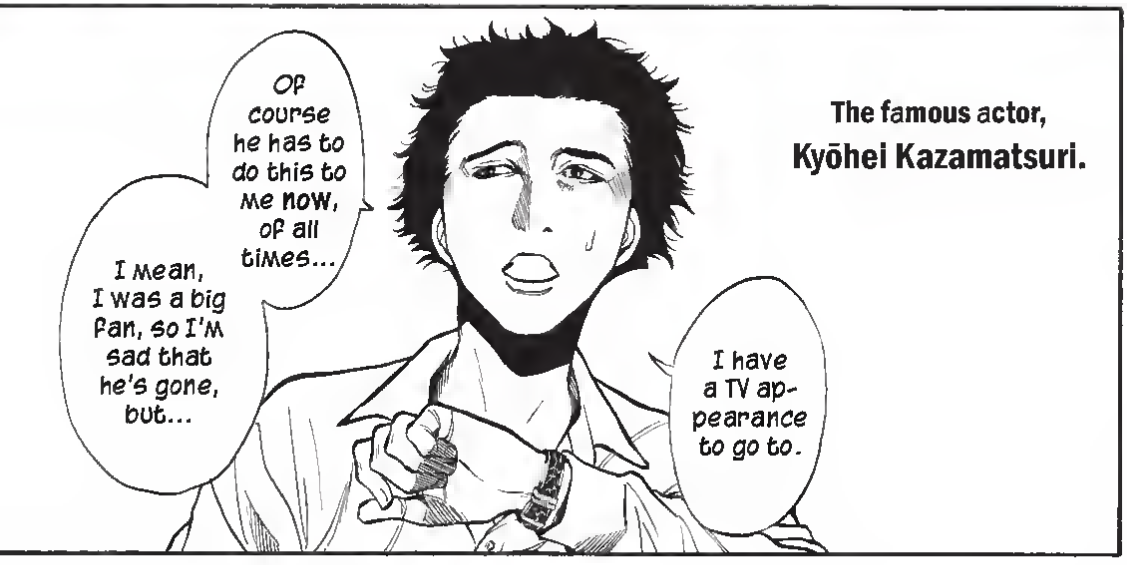
...Hold on.

...But I seriously doubt it.
Maybe he just wanted to try it on.

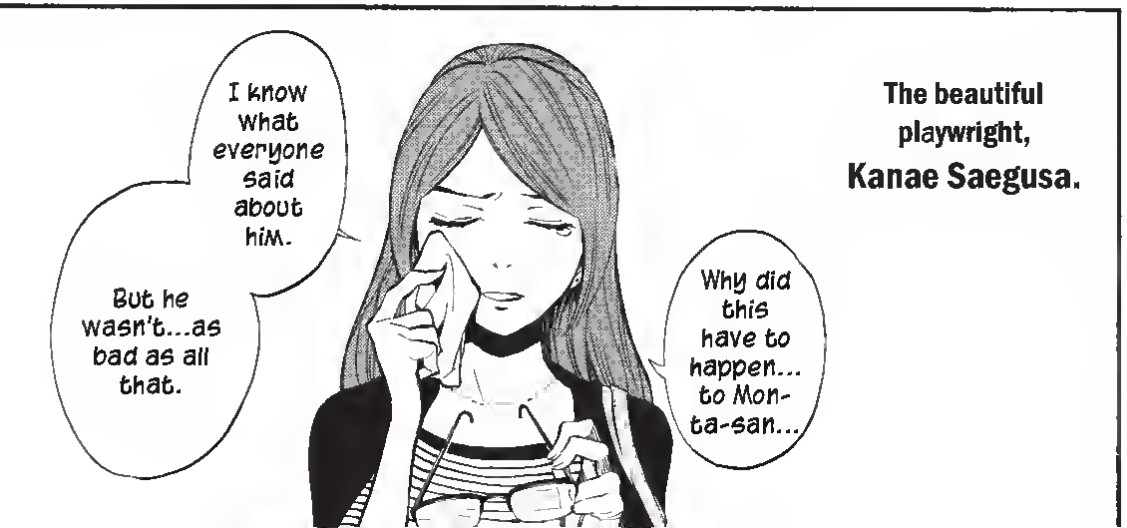
...
So why do you think he's wearing it?

How long are you going to keep me here?
...Well, I do already know who I want, but I have to call him, and fast.
This isn't funny. I have to find a substitute.

The big-name director,
Shinsaku Hyōdō

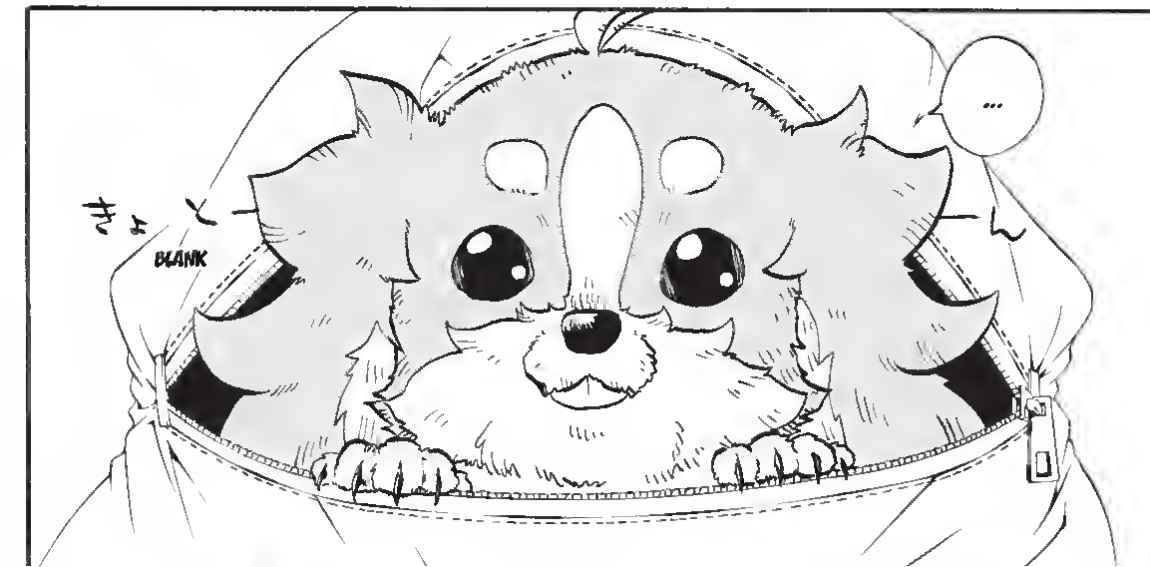


The famous actor,
Kyōhei Kazamatsuri.



The beautiful playwright,
Kanae Saegusa.

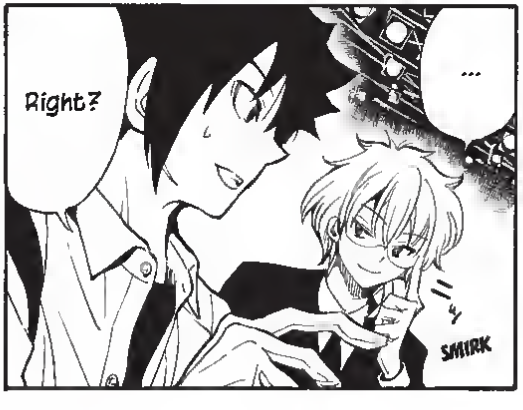
I concur.
...One of them is pretty suspicious.


...
BLANK

The beautiful playwright, Kanae Saegusa.
The big-name director, Shinsaku Hyōdō.
The famous actor, Kyōhei Kazamatsuri.
The killer...

SIGH...
Is the acclaimed actor
Kyōhei Kazama-tsuri.

And your reasons?


Right?
...
SMIRK

But I don't think that's enough
to make any accusations.
His shoes,
the fact that he's not wearing socks,
And his clothes.
Agreed!
...
So the show opens tomorrow!
Yoohoo, Kazamatsuri-san!
Hey, the party's going on right now.
If we don't get back there, people'll think something's up.
Think something's up? Like what?

...
Me blackmailing you?
Some-thing like
Then out steps Kyōhei Kazamatsuri carrying a woman's body
Oh, man, can you imagine my surprise?
I'M out doing some night fishing and a Porsche drives up!
GRNG
GRNG
GRNG
WHA...WHAT THE HELL ARE...
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
HNGH!!
I thought you were shooting a TV drama or...
FSH
!

GWAH!
WHAM
No! My nose is bleeding...
DRIP DRIP
...
THUD
No!!
There's blood on his white shoe!!
It's not on his clothes.
...
It's okay.
!
And I lost my...I don't have time to look for it, but at least...

The police will notice that for sure.
There must be a way to...
It doesn't make any sense for him to have been on stage barefoot!
If they find it, they'll do a DNA test!!
Dammit...I can't get it all off.
Everybody hated that sorry excuse for a comedian.
There are motives for murder all over the place...
I know!!
If not for that, I could have made this work!
...That nose-bleed is really going to cost me.
I'll find some way to get them off my scent and get out of here! I have to!!
But nothing stands out about the body.
And they put two little fledgling detectives on the case.

!
Kazamatsuri-san.

Can we ask you a few questions?
Huh? That was kind of weird.
Yes, what is it?

キィ
CREAK
Yes?
!

When did you get up there?
Ack! Sherdog!!
WHINE
クゥーン
TROT TROT...
トコトコ...

WHIMPER!
PATTER
PATTER
You can't do that! Be a good dog.

WHINE
We understand that you and the late Komatsuda-san spoke on the phone frequently.

...Hm?
GLINT
...Right. He's just a dog now.
I have to do this on my own.
WHIMPER
!

Munakata-kun!!
Actually, what I want to know is...

Kazama-tsuri-san.
Y...yes?
!
PSST PSST
ヒソヒソ...
Huh?

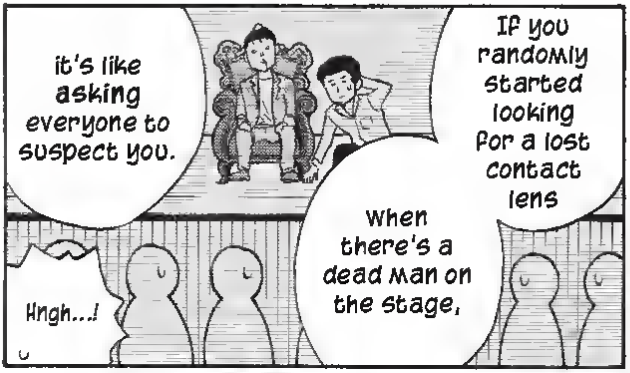
?
Not... not at all...
GRIN
Would you mind coming with us?
Oh, don't worry. We only have a few questions. HAVE A SEAT.
I get my own private interrogation room? THAT'S KIND OF SCARY...
Kazamatsuri-san.
Yes, what is it?
When I addressed you a few moments ago...
...Okay.
Now, then, Takeru-kun. Why don't you go first?

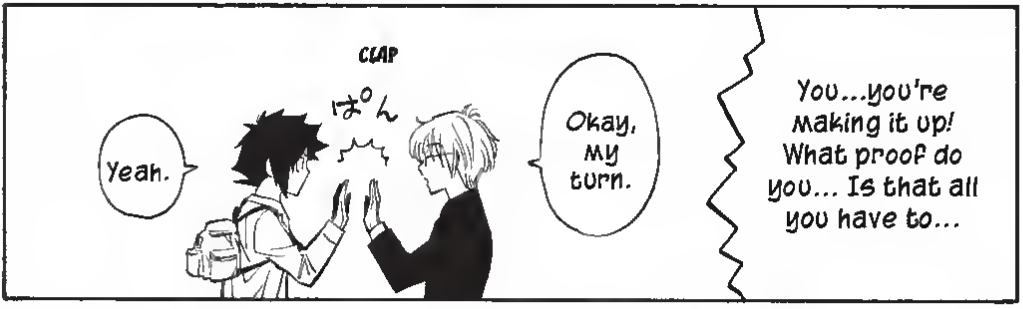
You rose out of your seat and turned your whole body to look at me.
CREAK
?!
I found this.
I...I did? What about it...?
I thought it was strange.
And then...
What do I do...? I could lie, but I can't trick a DNA test!!
No!! He found my contact lens!!
...!!

We think you did it!
GAH! HE SAID IT!
What?!
PWP
Why didn't you say anything when you lost it?
Uh...oh, right. I dropped that during rehearsal.
Thanks for finding it.
AHEM
Now see here, Kazamatsuri-san.
Oh, I didn't want to break our momentum...
Your eyesight must be pretty bad!
Then why didn't you tell anyone after rehearsal?
Treating me like a criminal because I dropped a contact lens during rehearsal...
BAM
Y-you may be the police, but I can still sue you for slander!!
CREAK
Or else you could have turned your neck to look at me, instead of your whole body!
Yes?
But you needed to look at us with the eye that still had a contact lens—your left eye!!

But it would make sense
If it fell out while you were committing a murder.

...!!
And yet you didn't tell your manager—you didn't tell anyone—and you didn't look for it, either.
That's unusual behavior for a big-name actor like you.


If you randomly started looking for a lost contact lens
When there's a dead man on the stage,
it's like asking everyone to suspect you.
Hngh...!

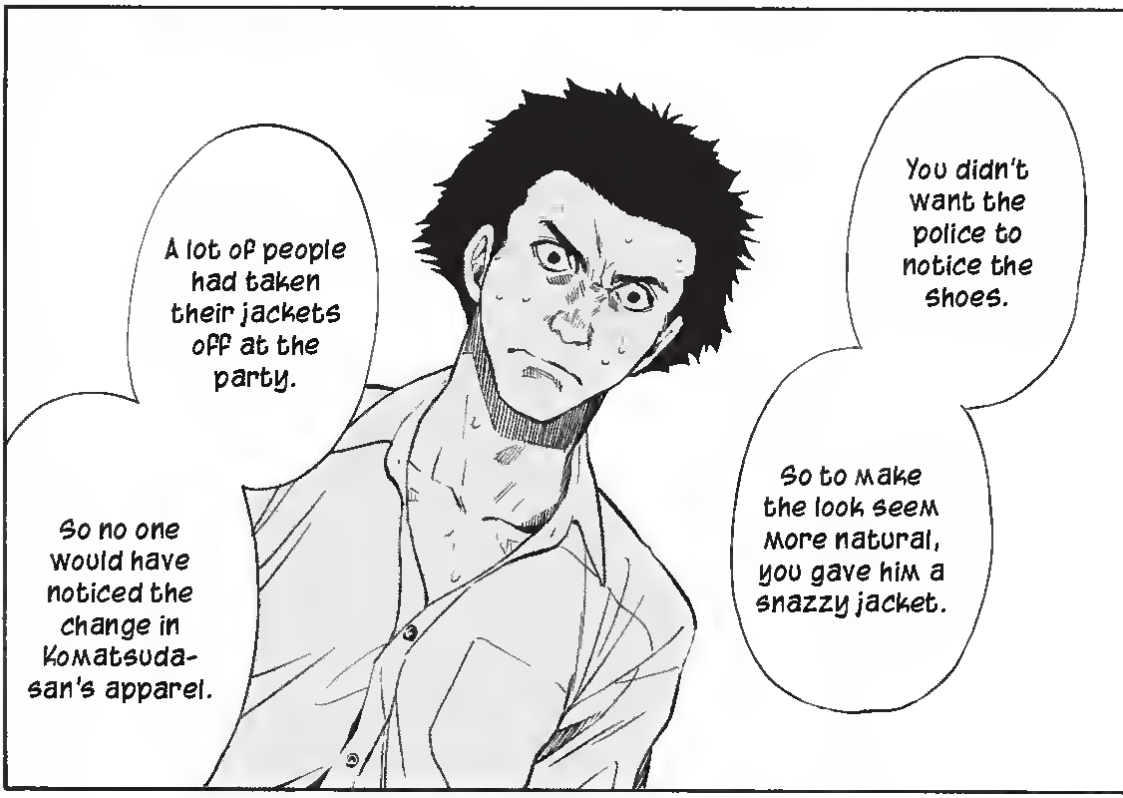

CLAP
ぱ°ん
Yeah.
Okay, my turn.
You...you're making it up! What proof do you... Is that all you have to...

Of course we have other reasons to suspect you.
...
ss...

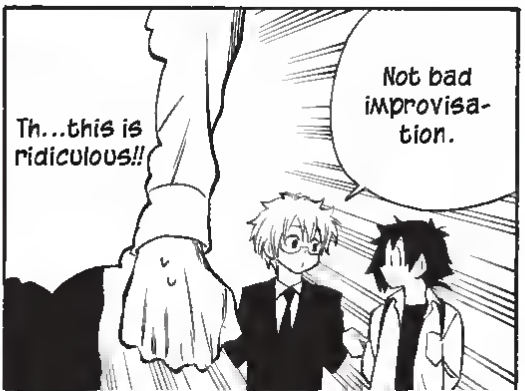
In fact, what caught our attention
were the shoes on the victim's body!
#7
GULP
!
Kazamatsuri-san, you put your own shoes on him,
and then gave him a jacket to match, didn't you?
They were a full centimeter too big.
And his jacket was a rented costume.
COSTUME RENTAL YAMADA
Wh... what...
!!

So you had no choice— you had to give him your shoes.
But your shoes were expensive Oxfords that you would never see on a guy wearing jeans and a t-shirt.

None of the rental costumes came with shoes.
For some reason,
you had to take Komatsuda-san's shoes off of him.


You didn't want the police to notice the shoes.
A lot of people had taken their jackets off at the party.
So to make the look seem more natural, you gave him a snazzy jacket.
So no one would have noticed the change in Komatsuda-san's apparel.

But where did the victim's shoes go?
You insult me! Now, if you'll excuse me!!
BAM

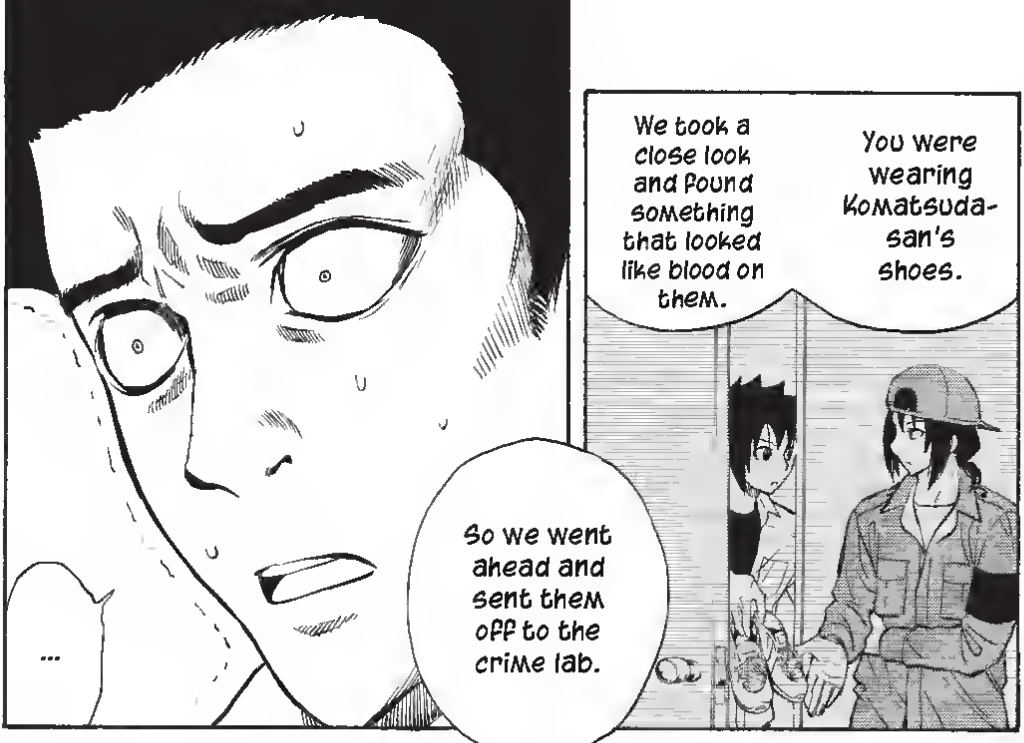

Th...this is ridiculous!!
Not bad improvisa-tion.

Huh? Come to think of it, Kazama-tsuri-san.
Your clothes don't really match your shoes, either, do they?
YOU TRIED TO HIDE IT BY TAKING OFF YOUR JACKET AND TIE. BUT...
GTCH
GTCH
GTCH
This...this is called "dressing down."
It's a valid fashion choice.
Huh. I didn't know that.
What are you talking about? These are my shoes!
They're broken in and everything!!
Is it also a valid fashion choice to plee an interrogation in someone else's shoes?
No.

They're not the ones you were squeezing your feet into earlier.
They look a lot like them, though. They're mine.

Those
are my shoes.
..What?

When you're used to wearing an old pair of shoes,
then you can tell as soon as you put them on if they're yours or someone else's.
You were going to leave with them on and you didn't even notice the difference.
...
Why is that?
But you didn't notice a thing.
had already come from somebody else!!
Because the shoes you were wearing

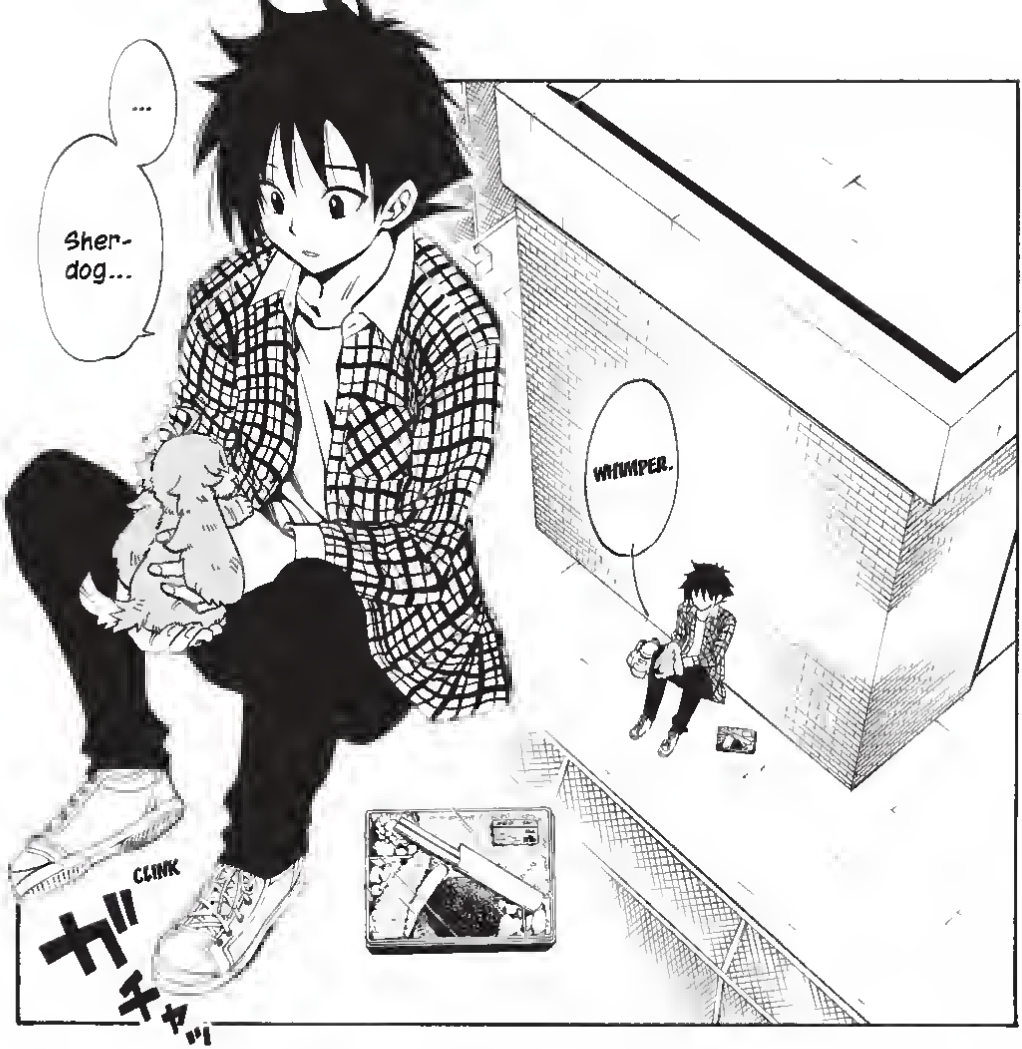

...
So we went ahead and sent them off to the crime lab.
We took a close look and found something that looked like blood on them.
You were wearing Komatsuda-san's shoes.

I didn't mean to kill him!!
Aaaaaahhhh!

Huh?
I haven't forgiven you for the urine incident...
Whew...
I managed to solve this one without Sherdog...
Takeru-kun.
I'M THE VICTIM HERE!
But, you know,
you're not bad at this.
...

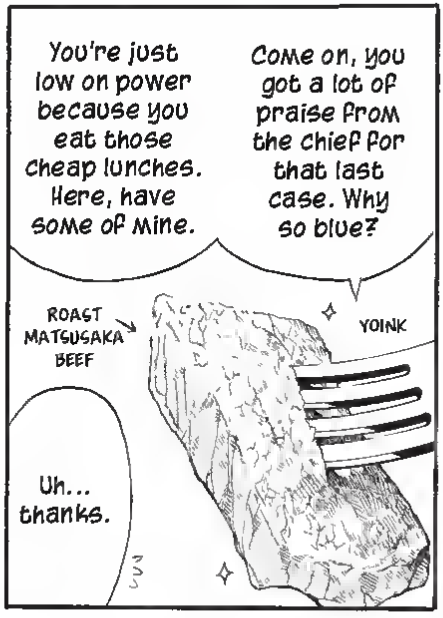
CLAP!

WHIMPER...
...



Coffee Time 5 ☕ Farewell, Great Detective

About the dog thing we discussed on the roof the other day.
I think I really had the wrong idea.
Huh...?


You're just low on power because you eat those cheap lunches. Here, have some of mine.
Come on, you got a lot of praise from the chief for that last case. Why so blue?
ROAST MATSUSAKA BEEF
YOINK
Uh... thanks.

...So hey.
He's not such a bad guy after all...

Munakata-kun...
I'm a pragmatist. It wasn't like me to even suggest it.

It's way too sci-fi. It would never happen.
I mean, a dog with a brain that's more powerful than a human's?

Well...
You can take that Matsusaka beef as an apology.
Ha ha ha.
Thanks.

...

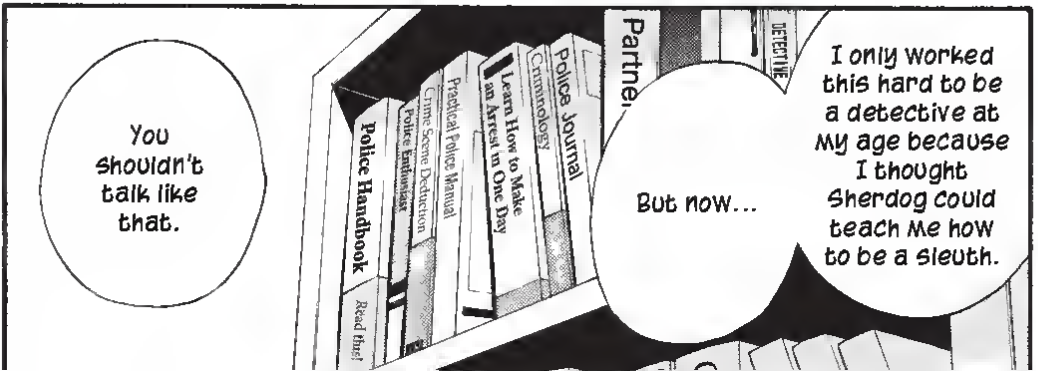
クゥーン
WHINE...
NOM NOM...
!?
Here you go.
You can have some, too, Sherdog.

Yeah. I thought he'd be back to normal before long.
It's true... he's just a puppy.
...
HEFF HEFF HEFF
But he's been like this, this whole time.

...What am I gonna do?
If he stays this way forever...

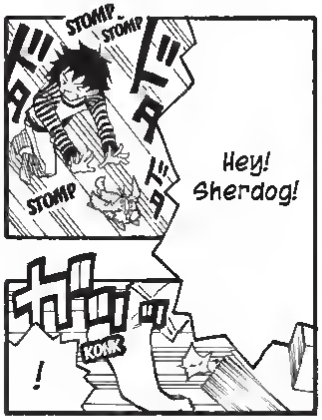
Every time he changed before, he'd change back when he tinkled, right?
ACK!
WII
He peed on me!!
You were a normal dog until just a split second ago!
I thought so, too, but it didn't work this time.
W-well, I remember getting thrown

...
"What are you going to do?"
About what?


You shouldn't talk like that.
But now...
I only worked this hard to be a detective at my age because I thought Sherdog could teach me how to be a sleuth.
Police Handbook
Police Journal
Criminology
Learn How to Make an Arrest in One Day
Practical Police Manual
Crime Scene Deduction
Police Enthusiast
DETECTIVE

What?
I think you solved them, Takeru.
All of those cases...
But you're the one who went in there and confronted those murderers.
Maybe Sherdog-chan was helping you.
Hey, Sherdog-cha...
!!
WZZZ
...
Yeah.
You need to have more faith in yourself.

Aaaahhh! Don't look at Me, Takeru!
...Gasp!!
Right, of course!
BAD DOG!

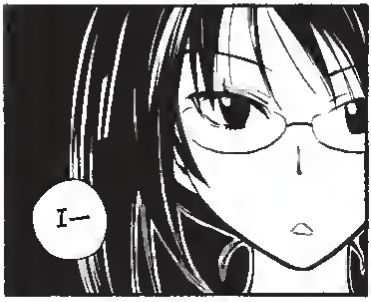

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Hey! Sherdog!
KONK
!

Aaaah! Eww! He peed on Me!!
What do I do? What do I do?
SHOO
Ack! Miki, wait—

Ack!
THUD

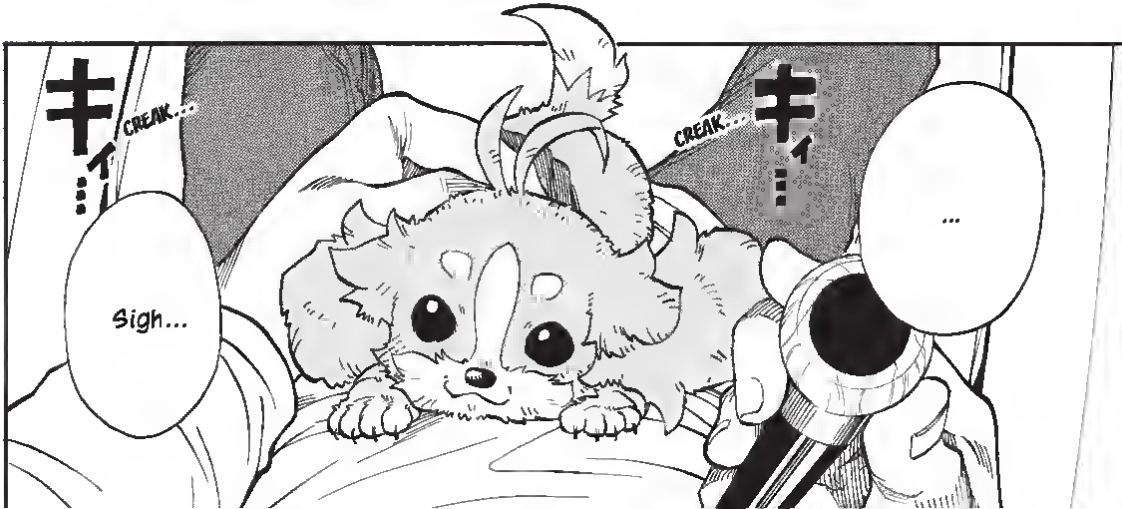
M-Miki, I'm sorry!
...!!
...Yeah.
I-I'm okay...
...
...
B-DMP...
...
B-DMP...
Takeru ...?
T...
B-DMP...
...

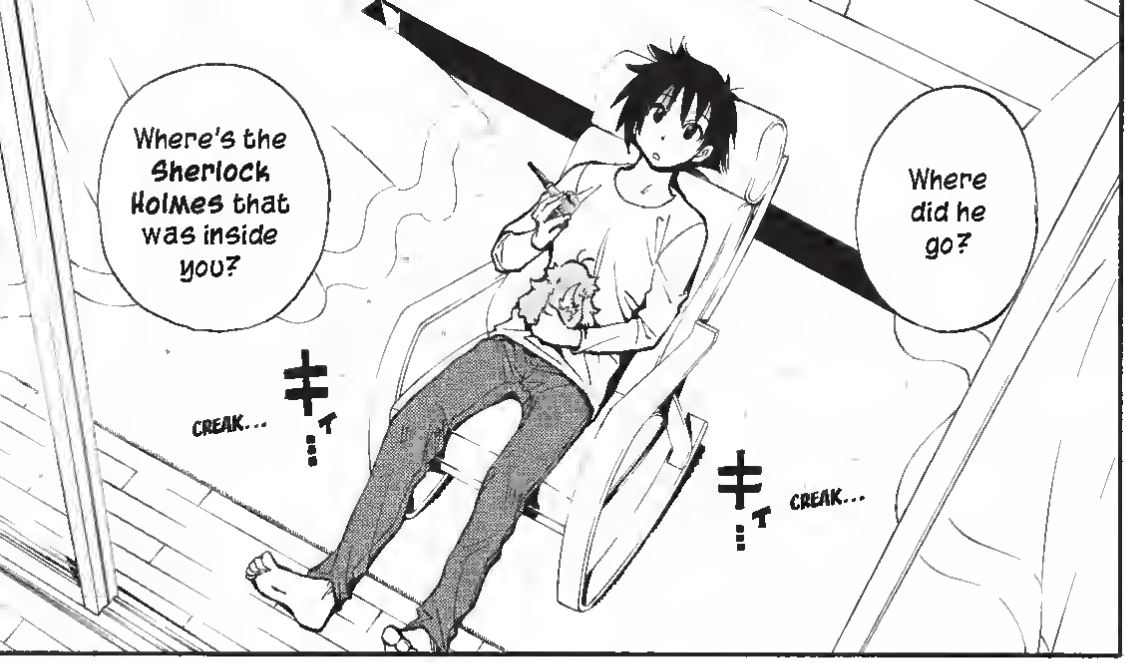
Takeru! If Miki-chan's here, you should at least offer her some...
Mi...
BAM


I—

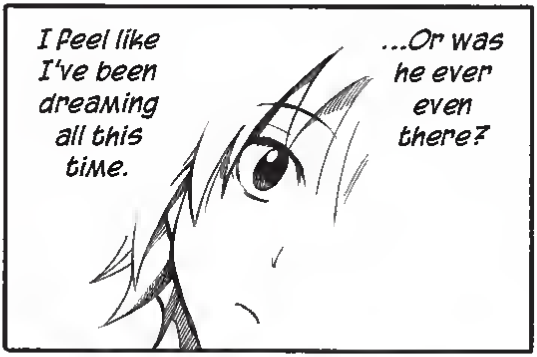
...
?!

It... it's not what you think, Sis!!
SLAM
I'm sorry for interrupting! I'm sorry!


CREAK...
CREAK...
Sigh...
...


Where's the Sherlock Holmes that was inside you?
Where did he go?
CREAK...
CREAK...

But maybe it never did belong to Holmes. Maybe it's just...
And everyone says Grandpa got this pipe in London.


I feel like I've been dreaming all this time.
...Or was he ever even there?

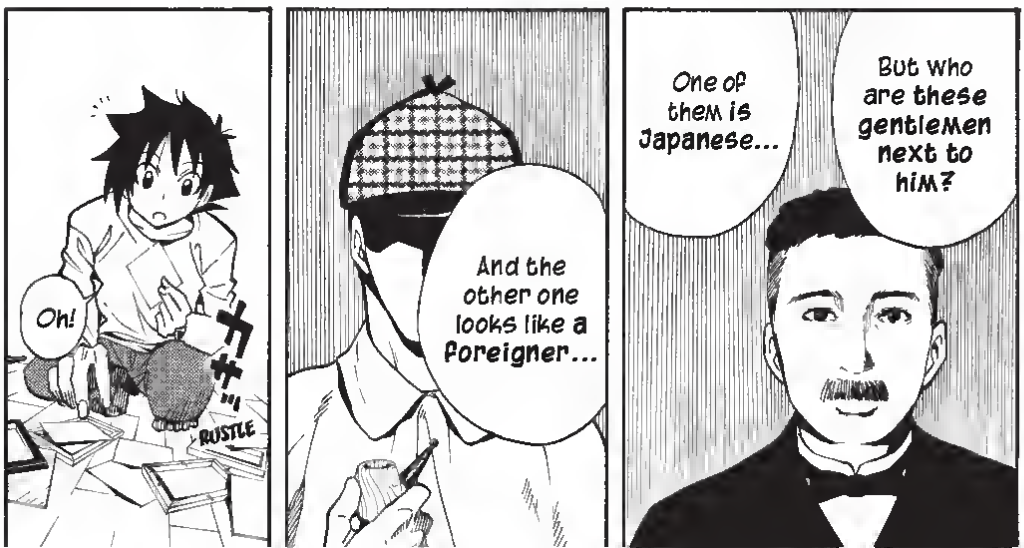
Ugh, I can't take my eyes off you for a second...
!

SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
Hey! What's all that noise? Is that Sherdog again?!
Y-y-yes, Ma'am. I'll clean it up right away!

CRASH
SHATTER
CLUNK
?!

This picture...

Is this grandpa when he was young?!
Everyone always told me I look just like him.
I guess they were right.

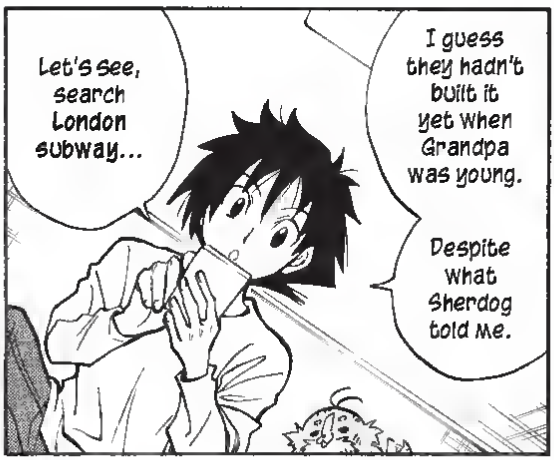

But who are these gentlemen next to him?
One of them is Japanese...
And the other one looks like a foreigner...
Oh!
RUSTLE

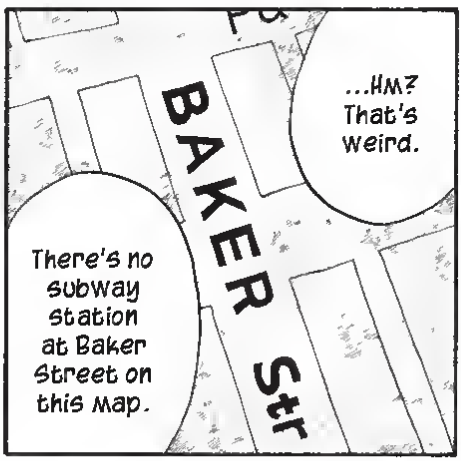
There's an old map...
LONDON
This is... London!
EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

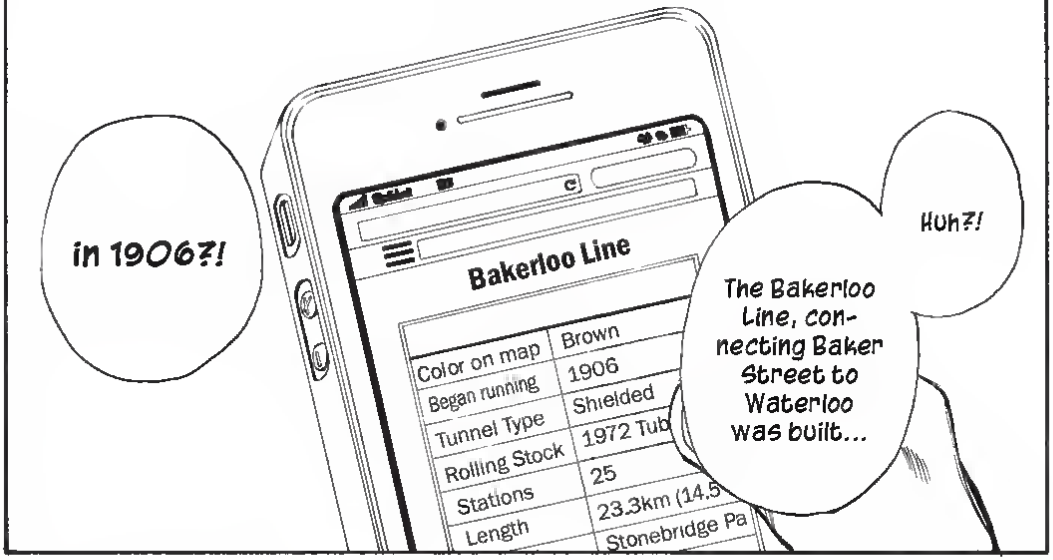
Oh yeah, I think Sherdog said...
The world's first underground railway
was opened in my hometown of London.

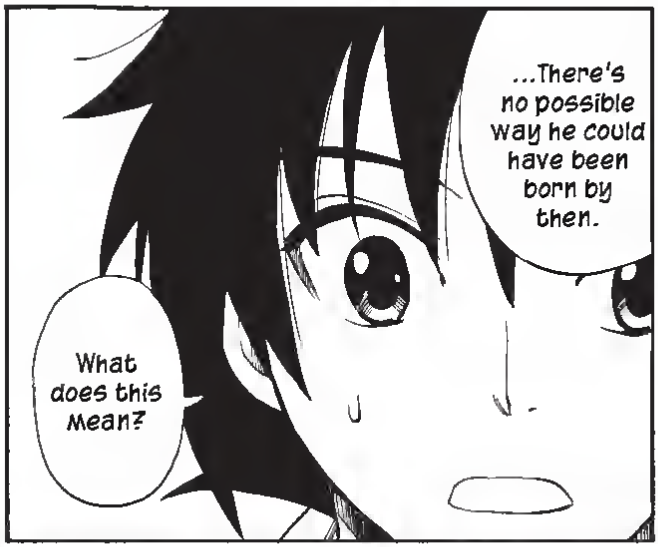
Around here, I guess...

Where the famous Holmes had his detective business.
It was Baker Street, right?

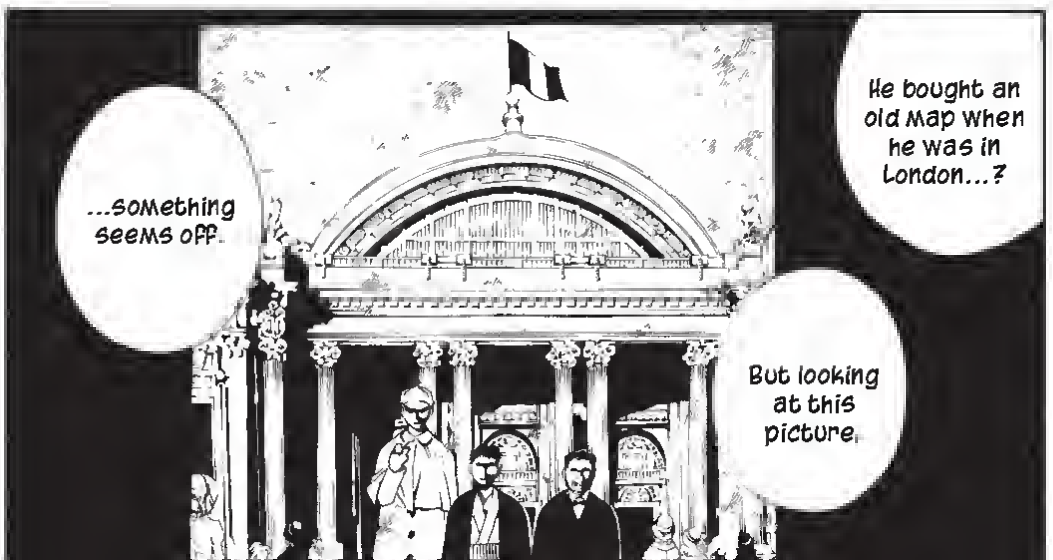

Let's see, search London subway...
I guess they hadn't built it yet when Grandpa was young.
Despite what Sherdog told me.


BAKER Str
...HM? That's weird.
There's no subway station at Baker Street on this map.


in 1906?!
Bakerloo Line
Color on map
Brown
Began running
1906
Tunnel Type
Shielded
Rolling Stock
1972 Tub
Stations
25
Length
23.3km (14.5
Stonebridge Pa
The Bakerloo Line, connecting Baker Street to Waterloo was built...
Huh?!

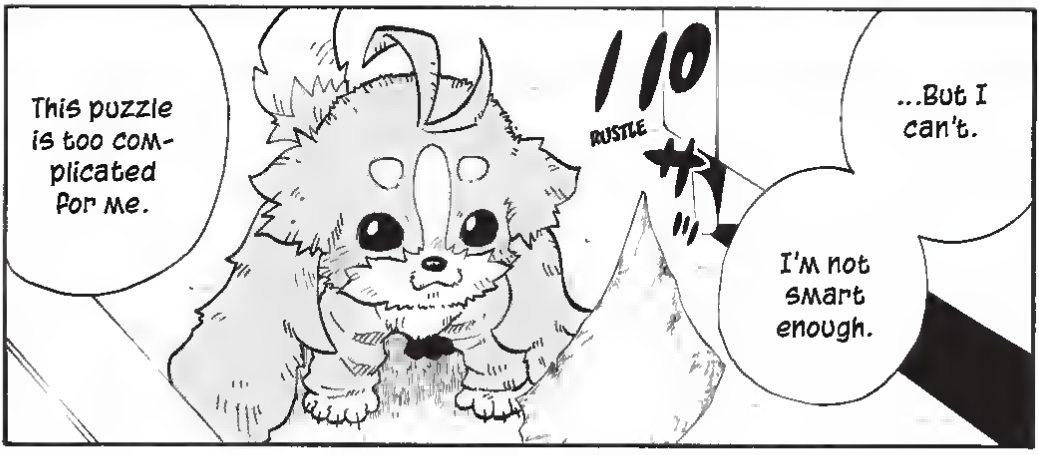

...There's no possible way he could have been born by then.
What does this mean?

Let's see, I remember he died when I was in sixth grade.
When was Grandpa born?
He was in his seventies...


...something seems off.
He bought an old map when he was in London...?
But looking at this picture,

THUD
ドサッ
Ugh, what is this feeling?
I don't like it!
I feel like I'm so close to figuring out Sherdog's secret...

...


This puzzle is too complicated for me.
RUSTLE
I'm not smart enough.
...But I can't.

Come back...

Sherdog...
...

...
...Oh, honestly.
What?
I can't do this anymore.
I've had enough.
I'm nothing.
I still need you.
Without you...
I wanted to do whatever it took to catch her.
She overcame the five minute hurdle
by dividing it up!!
With your own dog eyes!!
But I saw her with my own eyes!!
You see...
You got it, Sherdog!!
That's right!
Onward, Watson!!
Sherdog is acting like...like a normal dog? Again?!
STOP DRINKING SO MUCH MILK!
No cooking!!
You're not the only one with a precious police detective for a grandfather!
Heh heh. Yeah, well!
Right, Sherdog?
Yeah, thanks, Sherdog.
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE TAKING HIM BACK TO THE SHELTER!!!
What was the matter with you?!
AND THAT INCIDENT...

At the photo-graph!!
Look closer!
Don't you recognize him
From your language arts textbook?
This man you referred to as merely a Japanese gentleman.
...

This is none other than the world's fair held in Paris that year!!
He happened to be living in London in 1900.
Now look at the building behind him.
It's Natsume Sōseki!!
You're the one from Japan—I should think you would know more about him than I do.
I'm sorry!
What?!
In other words, this photograph
was taken in Paris in 1900!
How... how do you know?
Couldn't it be doctored...?
But this photograph is most assuredly
real!!
But...but Grandpa couldn't have been born then...so how?
That, I don't know.

I know
because the Englishman in the photo-graph
is I... Sherlock Holmes.

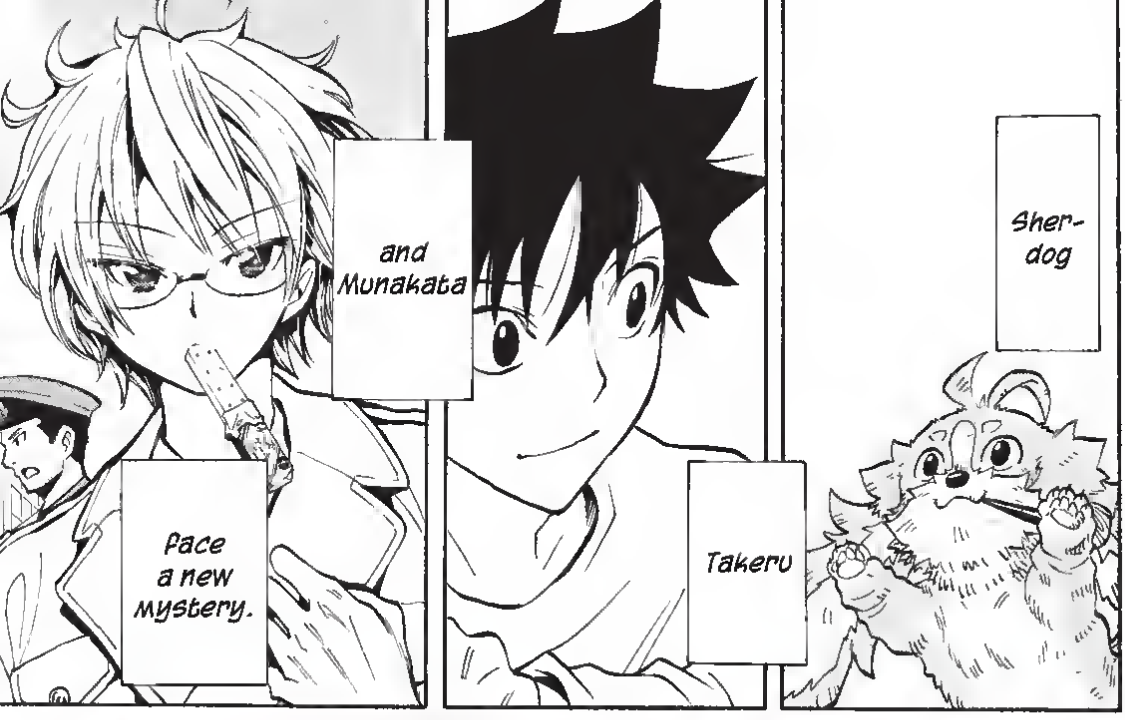
But the memory of posing for this photo is starting to come back to me.
I believe this was when I gave my pipe to your grandfather... this pipe.
You met my grandfather?
...!
I don't know if it's because the memory is a hundred years old, or if there's some other reason.
To be honest, that memory has escaped me.
Whaaaaaaaaat?!
CLANG
Well, the truth is, I had never changed.
MEH.
Hey, you're back to normal, Sherdo...
...It's so strange.
GASP!
Oh...okay.
but my secret was about to be discovered by Munakata-kun, who is only nineteen, like yourself.
It may be true that I will become a dog if an adult learns my identity.

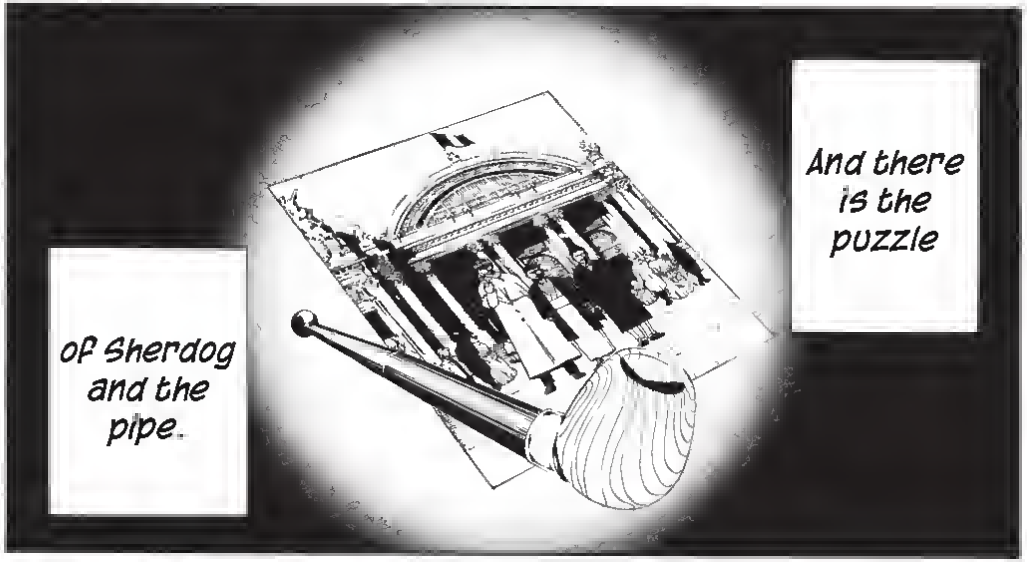
It was quite worth watching.
You two could make an excellent team.
I get that, but...
...
And one more thing.
I wanted to see how you worked with that young Detective Munakata.

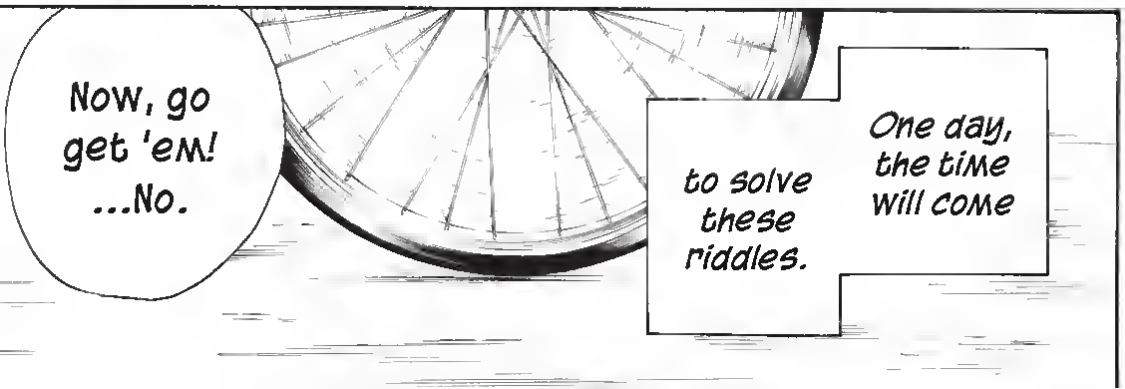
I wanted you to work a little harder
to solve a case on your own.
...
Because you rely too heavily on Me, Watson.
So why did you pretend to be a normal dog?!
SIGH

That was mean!!
I missed you, Sherdog!!

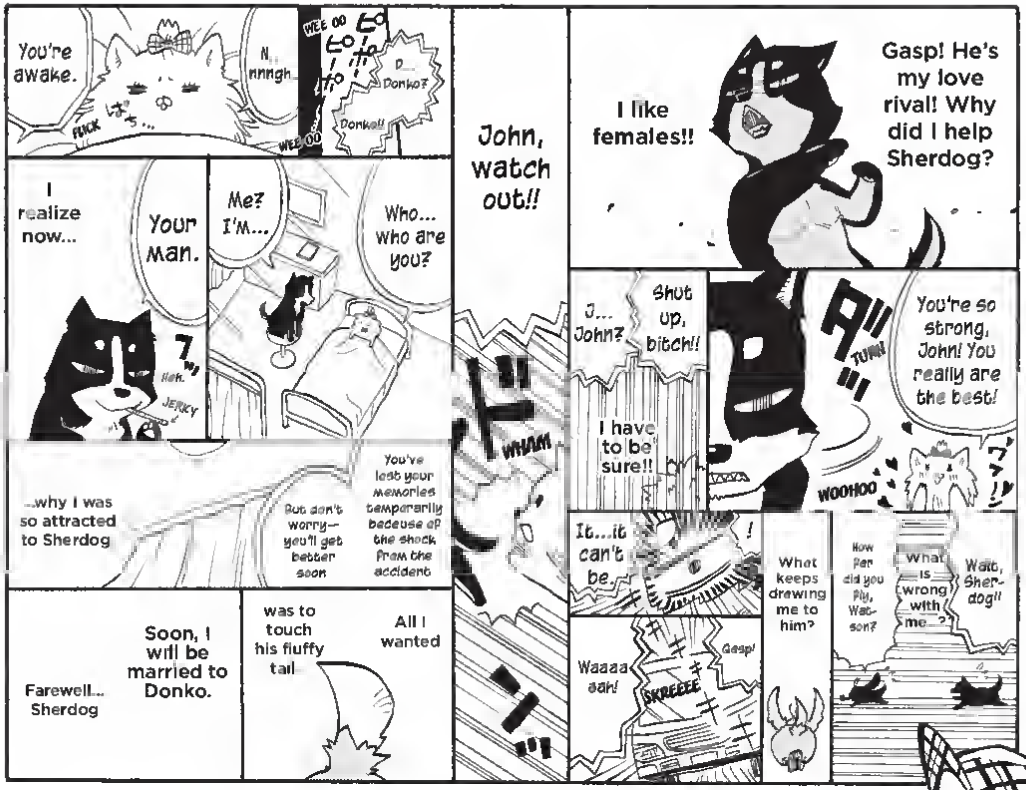
It would seem that I'll need to be your partner a while longer...
...I'm sorry.
...before we can solve my own mystery.
D...darn right.
RRRING
Quite so.
I'll work a lot harder...
I'll work harder.
Yup!
A case already?
Hello...yes, sir! I'm on my way.
! It's the Chief.


and Munakata
face a new mystery.
Takeru
Sher-dog


And there is the puzzle
of Sherdog and the pipe.


Now, go get 'em! ...No.
to solve these riddles.
One day, the time will come

Let's go together, Watson!
Okay, Sherdog!!
Until then...
...we bid you farewell.
Part One: End



THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

I'm sorry ;; I had no idea we would only have one page available for bonus material... Who are John and Donko?!

Due to various circumstances, after introducing new characters and the story of the pipe, Sherlock Bones had to get put on hiatus I'm so sorry! I don't know when there will be a sequel, but Ando-sensei and I are both plenty motivated, so I hope an opportunity will present itself...

Anyway, I really did learn a lot from working on this series Ando-sensei would improve all the good points of my rough drafts, and he took apart and explained all the bad parts, thoroughly and in a way that made sense. I'm very grateful for the experience! I'm sorry for always drawing the author in such weird caricatures (ha ha)

And I'm always getting so much encouragement from all you readers and your letters, but as usual, I haven't been able to return the favor, and I'm really very sorry... I don't think I'll ever change ;; I hope you won't let that stop you from reading my manga!! Finally, to my editor who I'm always causing trouble for, everyone in marketing, my friends, and family— thank you!! $

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!!

TAKERU SHERDOG

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Spaghetti, Denim, Tex, and His Highness, page 13

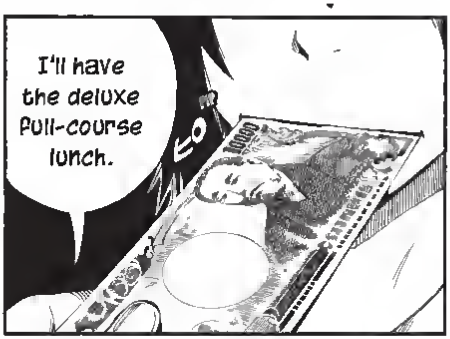
All of these are nicknames from Chief Yoshida's favorite detective drama, "Taiyō ni Hoero!", or "Howl at the Sun!" Spaghetti, originally Macaroni Keiji, got his nickname because his style of dress reminded another character of Spaghetti Westerns. Detective Denim got his name for wearing jeans. Tex, or Detective Texas, wears a ten-gallon hat, and His Highness is so-called because of his noble, sophisticated bearing.

You're filthy, Watson, page 30

Since Sherdog is learning all about modern-day Japan during his adventures with Takeru, he learned the term, engacho. The word is usually used by children to identify someone who is infected with dirtiness, such as a friend who stepped in something gross. In this case, he is referring to the tea that Dr. Akane spit all over Takeru's face. Until the engacho is lifted (in this case, by Takeru cleaning his face), the person so identified is to be avoided, so that no one else will catch the dirtiness.
It's a little like cooties.

Deluxe full-course lunch, page 65

Takeru has been sent to buy lunches at a store that specializes in pre-packaged lunches. Kento, in his constant attempt to prove his superiority, asks for the biggest and most expensive lunch on the menu, the deluxe maku-no-uchi lunch. The term maku-no-uchi means "between acts," because such meals were served between the acts of a kabuki play. The lunch has small portions, but of a wide variety of foods, including rice, vegetables, fish, etc.



Marriage interview, page 69

Here, Katsuyo is referring to an omiai, which literally means "looking at one another." Basically, an omiai is when a single man and woman meet each other under the understanding that they are looking for a marriage partner.

Monster coma, page 137

The translators would like to apologize for this terrible excuse for a pun. In Japanese, Monta Komatsuda's name lends itself to a pun much more easily. His nickname, as the director calls him, is Komatta, which is a word that basically means "bothersome." Monta sounds like monda, meaning "it is a thing." In Japanese name order, his name is Komatsuda Monta, which easily becomes komatta monda—"it is a bothersome thing," or, "oh, bother."

Private interrogation room, page 155

As Takeru and Kento have stated, the most suspicious point about Kyōhei Kazamatsuri is his shoes, so they needed a way to get those shoes off of him. In Japan, it is customary to remove one's shoes when inside a building. Many public buildings, like theaters, no longer

require this, but it is still common courtesy in any building to remove one's shoes when entering a room with tatami mat flooring—a room like the one Takeru and Kento use for this interrogation. This is partially because tatami mats were originally used for seating and to sleep on, and it would be rude to get them dirty.

Natsume Sōseki, page 183

Natsume Sōseki is a renowned Japanese author, who wrote several Japanese literary classics, such as Kokoro and Botchan. He also studied abroad in England at the beginning of the 20th century.

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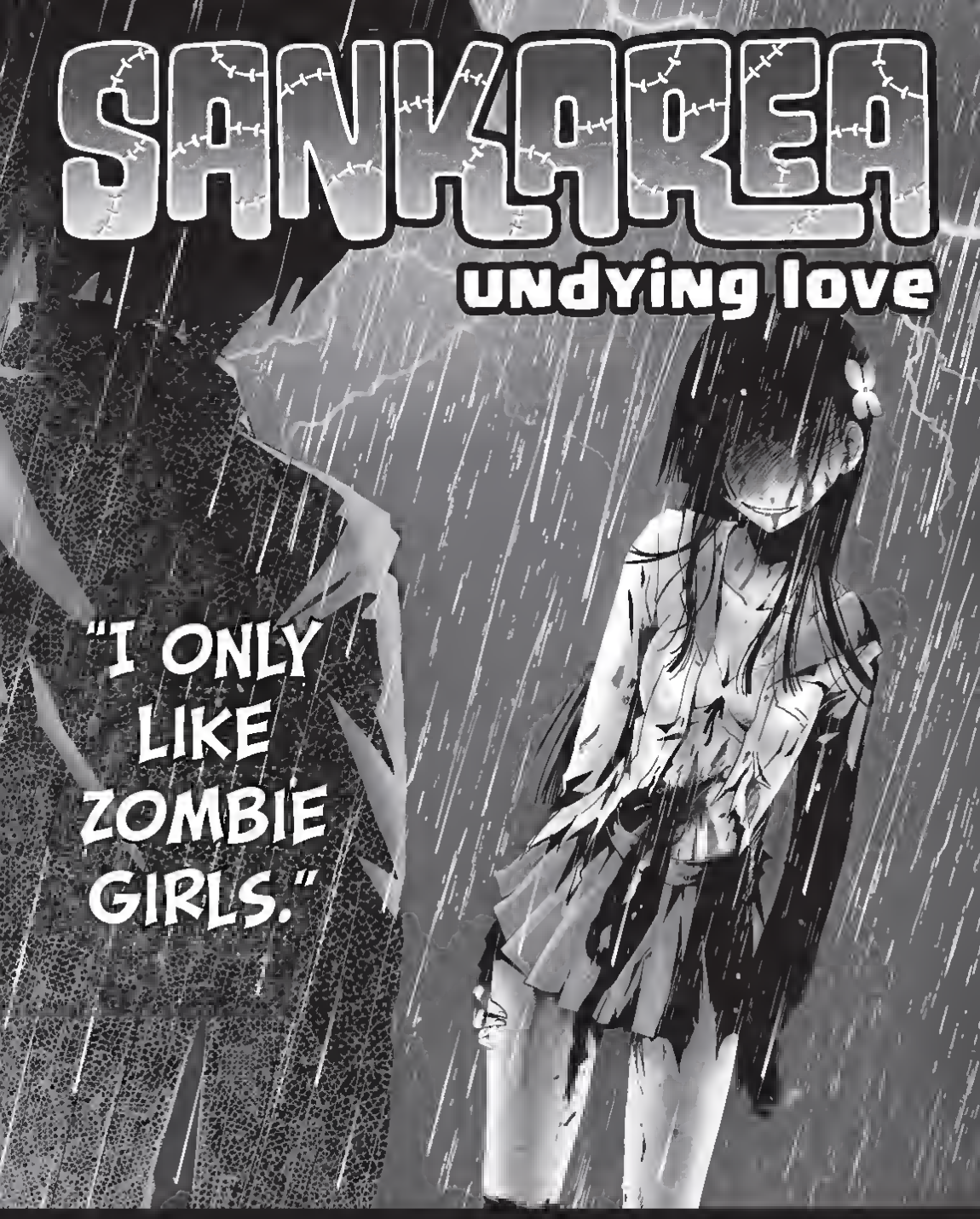

Chihiro has an unusual connection to zombie movies. He doesn't feel bad for the survivors – he wants to comfort the undead girls they slaughter! When his pet passes away, he brews a resurrection potion. He's discovered by local heiress Sanka Rea, and she serves as his first test subject!

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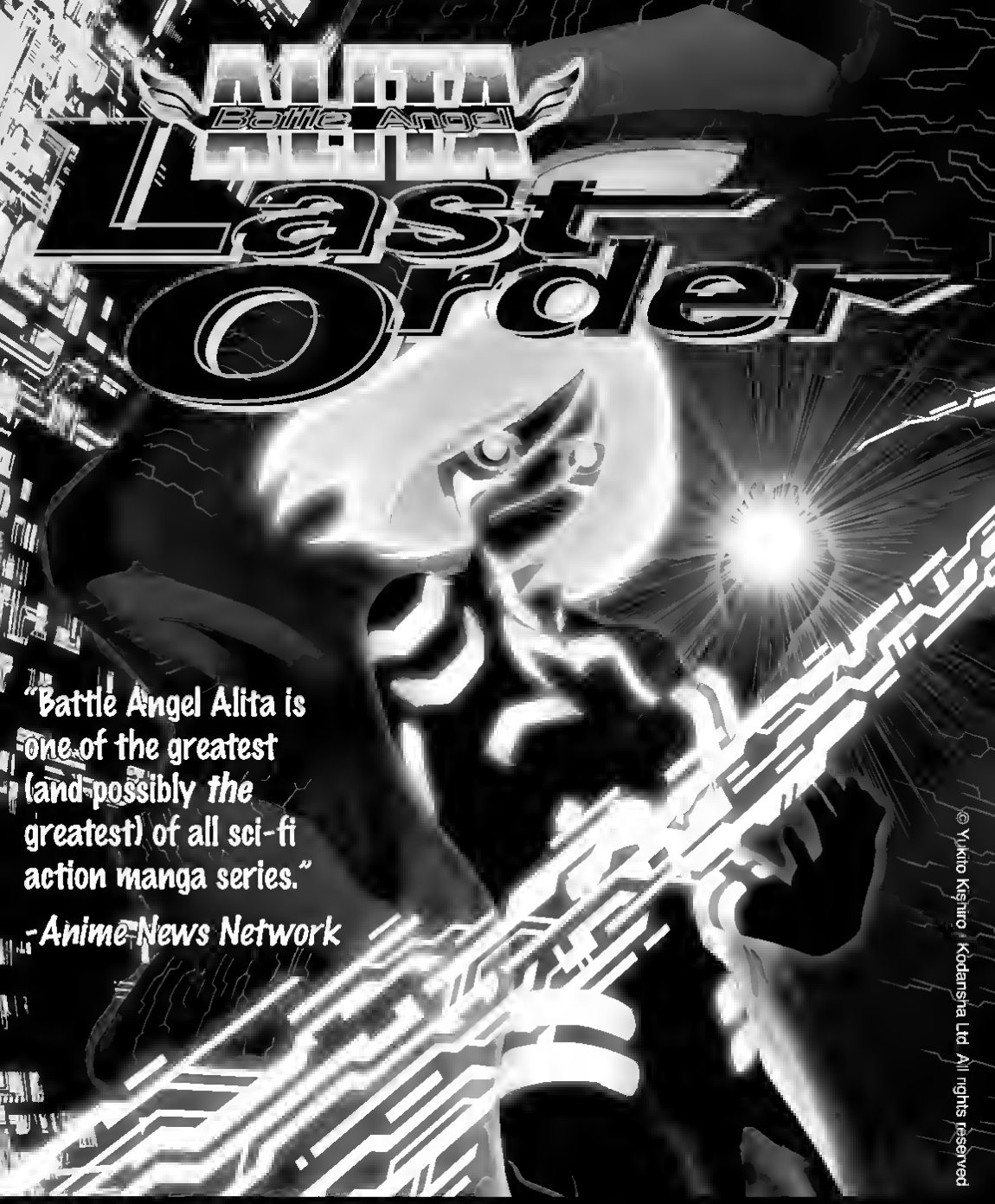
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